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WORLD CUP COSTS WORRY TO ASF

The Australian Soccer Federation could go broke during its current World Cup venture.

Some \$200,000 in debt, the ASF will have to scrape together another \$400,000 to finance the travel and training expenses of the Socceroos in 1981.

We have been told by a reliable source that the November-December

world tour by the national team exceeded the budget by some \$45,000. Instead of the estimated \$130,000, it cost the ASF \$175,000.

Then came the next blow: the cancellation of Nacional of Montevideo's match in

Melbourne, because of the airline strike.

The ASF budgeted on a profit of \$55,000 from the match — and instead lost \$35,000 on preparations, including advertising and printing costs — a shortfall of \$90,000.

The preparations and travel involved in the Auckland match on April 25 come to another

\$31,000.

According to a detailed costing, \$31,000 will be needed to take the team to Fiji and \$79,000 to Taiwan and Jakarta on one tour — a further \$110,000 on top of the present \$200,000 overdraft, making it a whacking \$310,000.

Against that, the ASF will gain a revenue from the home World Cup

match against New Zealand in May — perhaps \$20,000 or \$30,000.

If Australia wins its subgroup, the team will have to make three more overseas trips: to China, South Korea and Saudi Arabia at a cost of \$162,000.

And even then there is no guarantee that the team will qualify for

Spain from where the ASF expects at least \$750,000 as its share of gate takings and TV rights.

On the other hand, if Spain remains an elusive dream, the total debt will reach a staggering \$500,000 or perhaps more.

The ASF is now busy rustling up some new sponsors to keep its

bank managers, if not happy, then at least morosely quiet.

Ten sponsors are being sought, each asked to pay \$25,000 into a consortium fund.

The first three or four have to be found by the middle of May — or the money runs out completely.

So if you happen to have a spare \$25,000 in cash...

Support the company that supports soccer



Rudi's war games can decide round



Muniz (left) and Taylor in Sunday's Sydney City v Heidelberg clash.

There could be some dramatic changes at the top of the Philips League after Sunday afternoon.

South Melbourne's shaky lead may be snatched away by any of three hopefuls — Wollongong, Sydney City and Canberra.

The overcrowded bottom of the table could also show some changes.

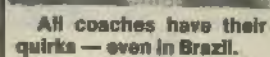
Many of the results will be influenced by the fitness of the Socceroos after this week's training camp in Sydney.

Rudi Gutendorf's regimen of two sessions a day plus a quick marathon run here and there thrown in for "light amusement" may make or break some of the jaded Socceroos.

Gutendorf calls it his "Green Beret paratroop" methods but probably they would have been found too tough even by Otto Skorzeny's famous Deathhead brigade which trained only half as hard for the rescue of Mussolini.

• Full preview of the round — P.3

DIRCEU IN STIR



In 1974, Brazil's manager, Mario Zagalo, refused to take to the World Cup finals one of the most brilliant players, Dirceu Lopes from Cruzeiro.

"He's too individualistic," Zagalo said of the man who, a year earlier, put on possibly the best single performance ever seen by Sydney fans, tearing apart Slovan.

In 1978, manager Coutinho kept Rivelino on the bench in most of the World Cup matches saying that his "style" wouldn't blend.

Now the current team boss, Tele Santana, has his own personal dislike — Dirceu (not to be confused with Dirceu Lopes).

In 1978, in Argentina, Dirceu was perhaps the most complete Brazilian player.

Then he went to Mexico for a year before signing for Spain's Atletico Madrid where he has helped his team to the very top in the Championship.

Medrado **Dias**, technical director of the Brazilian FA, said recently that Dirceu was the most modern Brazilian player at present and should be recalled in the national team.

Manager Santana, however, is reluctant, saying that he doesn't want to use players who appear for foreign clubs. Then he added, with an aside that he wouldn't use Dirceu even if he lived in the same street.

Two experts — two totally clashing views. Well, that's soccer.

• After an amateur league match in Evora, Portugal the referee and two linesmen were found unconscious in their dressing room. Two of the three men were revived but a linesman, Antonio Pitan, died in hospital. Cause of death was gas poisoning due to faulty heating system.

- Colombia will decide finally in July whether to stage the 1986 World Cup finals. Many members of Parliament are strongly opposed to the undertaking on financial grounds.

- When Greece beat Luxembourg, 5,000 of the 8,000 crowd were Greek guest workers.

• When Spain beat Switzerland 4-1 in a youth international match in Zaragoza — 32,000 paying spectators watched the game.

• A referee has been banned for life in Hungary after having filed a report, with a full result, of a match which was never played. He claimed that the two teams agreed on the "result" when the ground was unplayable.

• Franz Beckenbauer's salary in Hamburg is paid this way: one third by the club, two thirds by the sponsors, British Petroleum.

• During the season, five Bundesliga coaches have been sacked in West Germany. But that's not a European record: in Greece 10 have been fired so far, in Spain eight. The most stable are France, Austria and East Germany with one apiece.

• Hans Krankl, of Rapid Vienna, is the highest paid Austrian star with an annual salary of \$100,000.

• Nottingham assistant boss Peter Taylor: "Our team will be completely rebuilt next season. Only goalie Shilton and striker Francis are certain of their places."

- **Cardiff City are close to bankruptcy and cannot pay their players: the directors are now trying to find ways to keep going.**

• **Barcelona chief and former Inter Milan boss Helenio Herrera:** "Italian soccer is run by the Mafia and manager Enzo Bearzot is technically incompetent." **Bearzot's reply:** "Herrera disgusts me more than any other person in the world."

* Eusebio is now assistant coach of Benfica and may take over when Hungarian Lajos Barotl returns to Budapest this year or next.

- Recently in an amateur match in West Germany, a player threw the ball at the referee's face. The good arbiter promptly knocked out the player with an upper-cut. Now both are suspended.

▪ Queens Park's striker Mike Flanagan is in the isolation ward of a hospital with a mysterious infection and extremely high temperature.

■ Hamburg's next coach is likely to be the Austrian Ernst Happel, now with Standard Liege in Belgium.

- **Wolfgang Overath** has made a come-back — as an ice hockey player, appearing in a charity game and scoring a goal.

• I actually lose money by switching from Valencia to River Plate," moaned Argentine star Mario Kempes last week. His new salary is \$180,000 a year and he also collected 12.5% of his \$3 million transfer fee. What a sacrifice...

• When Hamburg and Bayern met recently in Hamburg, the Volkspark stadium was sold out (\$62,000 places) days before the match. Seats on the black market were fetching DM400 (\$170).

• **Novel rewarding system:** Dundee's manager Jim McLean, after his team's quarterfinal win in the Scottish Cup, reduced the promised bonus to the players by \$40. "It was too easy," he explained. Next time it won't be...

* Former Newcastle youngster Craig Johnston has signed for Liverpool; Middlesboro's transfer fee was \$1,500,000.

From Group 7 only one team will qualify, from the others two teams per group.



Lambert Park may see leaders topple

Relentlessly surging towards the top, Leichhardt will face their moment of truth on Sunday when they meet PSL leaders South Melbourne at Lambert Park.

There can be no more doubt that the inclusion of some new players, most notably Giampaolo and Kafka, has helped to lift Leichhardt out of its long spell of obscurity.

With Woodhouse and Peter Wilson also in international form, the team now has a solid, confident look about it.

South Melbourne, one feels, are ready to crumble any minute and may be at the top only on sufferance.

Their last excursion to Sydney almost ended in defeat against Blacktown — and they can expect an even tougher game here, with some pretty ferocious vocal support.

Davidson's clash with O'Connor could hold the key to this game.

Our tip: Leichhardt 2-1. Blacktown, possibly without Ortega and Djordjevic, both injured, will have a difficult assignment against the improving Adelaide City.

If Djordjevic could be patched up for Sunday's clash, Blacktown's ratings would improve on the soccer stock exchange.

This speedy, clever and smart winger is an enormous plus for the Demons.

Peter Cuk fills a new role: he plays central striker, grabs a goal — then bolsters the defence.

Adelaide City's old form and style are coming back but on interstate trips they still look a bit vulnerable.

Our tip: Blacktown 1-0.

Sydney Olympic will be hosts to Marconi at Pratten Park and both coaches, under stress and some criticism, desperately need the points.

Olympic keep losing while playing well and Marconi keep gathering in some points while in a dreadful shape.

It will be interesting to see whether the Marconi Socceroos can crawl out of their slump in the Gutendorf camp or will they plunge into a deeper form crisis.

Olympic have recalled Eaton and have dropped Jamieson and Wilson but their real motivator nowadays is Peter Katholos.

Something tells us about an upset looming — if another Marconi defeat can be termed as such.



John Kosmina, another Socceroo hopeful (left), sweeping past Heidelberg defender Arthur McMillan.



Sydney City's young Jim Patikas (centre) in action against Heidelberg.

Our tip: Olympic 2-1.

Newcastle's reign at the top proved to be short-lived and here is their chance against Preston to get back on the winning trail.

At home, the Novocastrians are a very tough proposition especially with Senkalski in such a sparkling form.

Preston are certain to bring in a new goalie to replace former international Lou Kastner, openly blamed for the loss of many recent points.

They will be also without the suspended striker Cullen, a definite blow to their chances.

Our tip: Newcastle 2-0.

The "Brisbane Derby" may swing either way, as such local affairs always tend to be open affairs.

Brisbane City lost a chance last week to score a runaway win while the Lions went down in Adelaide, fighting all the way.

George Potter may now stick with the experienced Conner and Low in the attack though the goals are really expected from the tall Wilkinson.

Lions, even without the injured Steve Hogg, look a more solid outfit and could keep the points in their den.

Our tip: Lions 1-0.

Footscray, as even their own coach admits, are a very sorry lot at the moment.

With the departure of several key players, they are probably the most vulnerable team in the PSL and it could take many weeks before they show a sign of improvement.

Sydney City weren't too impressive last Sunday — but interstate they play a much more virile and aggressive game.

If Boden is fit to play, his partnership with Kosmina and Watson is likely to produce enough goals for a win.

Todd Clarke should

keep his place in goal with young Pezzano having the horrors while at the back there shouldn't be any changes, further frustrating the comeback attempt of Kevin Mullen.

Our tip: Sydney City 3-1.

West Adelaide, despite some brave pre-season resolutions, are likely to struggle throughout the year.

Even at home, against the compact and fit Wollongong, they cannot be too confident.

The big problem of Westad is in their sterile attack: with just one reliable scorer, they could be a different proposition.

Wollongong, after four successive draws, will probably play for a win and a chance to get back to the top.

As this is the last match for a few weeks of Kiwis Campbell and Turner, wanted for World Cup duty back home, they may want to make their temporary exit on a high note.

Our tip: Wollongong 1-0.

Troubled Heidelberg, totally out of sync, are a



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to have the best

PHILIPS

TOP PSL SCORERS

- 8: BODEN (Sydney City)
- 5: OLLERTON (Preston)
- 4: O'CONNOR (Leichhardt)
- VALERI (Canberra)
- 3: CHRISTOPOULOS (South Melbourne)
- CULLEN (Preston)
- EVANS (Sth. Melb.)
- PATON (Heidelberg)
- WILKINSON (Bris. City)



Boden

sorry sight nowadays: all the method, smooth running off the ball and one-time passing have been deleted from their repertoire.

Stand-in coach Jimmy Rooney has his work cut out to replace Bannon at the back, Paton up front and to bring back into top form such stalwarts as Campbell, Tansey — and Rooney himself.

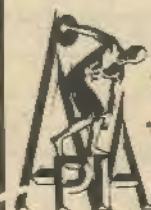
Canberra will badly miss the goal-strong Valeri, out with an ankle injury and coach Murray may throw both his Scottish imports, Purdie and Gibson, into the deep water.

Canberra are in a far superior form at present and they usually keep their best displays for interstate trips.

Our tip: Canberra 2-1.

CONGRATULATIONS TO —

Tony Henderson (Marconi-Datsun) for having played his 100th PSL match last weekend.



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\$4 — members and guests all welcome
— dancing after the show

PHILIPS LEAGUE 1981

	AGGREGATE									HOME								AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	±	P		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	P		
1 SOUTH MELBOURNE	7	5	2	—	12	6	+6	12		4	4	—	—	8	1	8	3	1	2	—	6	5	4	4	
2 WOLLONGONG	7	3	4	—	12	6	+6	10		4	2	2	—	7	4	6	3	1	2	—	5	2	4	4	
3 SYDNEY CITY	7	4	2	1	11	5	+6	10		4	3	1	—	8	1	7	3	1	1	1	3	4	3		
4 CANBERRA	7	4	2	1	8	3	+5	10		4	2	1	1	5	3	5	3	2	1	—	3	—	5		
5 BRISBANE CITY	7	3	3	1	9	5	+4	9		4	3	1	—	7	1	7	3	—	2	1	2	4	2		
6 LEICHHARDT	7	3	3	1	9	7	+2	9		3	1	2	—	4	3	4	4	2	1	1	5	4	5		
7 MARCONI	8	4	1	3	6	10	—4	9		4	2	1	1	3	3	3	4	2	—	2	3	7	4		
8 NEWCASTLE	7	3	2	2	8	6	+2	8		3	1	2	—	5	2	4	4	2	—	2	3	4	4		
9 PRESTON	7	3	—	4	12	10	+2	6		4	2	—	2	8	5	4	3	1	—	2	4	5	2		
10 ADELAIDE CITY	7	2	2	3	8	9	—1	6		4	2	—	2	6	5	4	3	—	2	1	2	4	2		
11 BLACKTOWN	7	1	4	2	9	11	—2	6		3	—	2	1	4	5	2	4	1	2	1	5	6	4		
12 BRISBANE LIONS	7	1	3	3	7	9	—2	5		3	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	—	2	2	4	6	2		
13 HEIDELBERG	8	2	1	5	9	14	—5	5		4	2	—	2	5	6	4	4	—	1	3	4	8	1		
14 WEST ADELAIDE	7	2	—	5	6	8	—2	4		3	1	—	2	3	3	2	4	1	—	3	3	5	2		
15 OLYMPIC	8	1	2	5	10	17	—7	4		3	1	2	—	7	5	4	5	—	—	5	3	12	—		
16 FOOTSCRAY	8	1	1	6	6	16	—10	3		4	1	1	2	5	6	3	4	—	—	4	1	10	—		

ONTONG (Lions)	DUNNE (Bris. City)	WOODHOUSE (Leichhardt)	WILSON (Leichhardt)	B. NYSKOHUS (Adel. City)	
PATIKAS (Sydney City)	SENKALSKI (Newcastle)	KATHOLOS (Olympic)	CUMMINGS (Sth. Melb.)	CUK (Blacktown)	P. TREDINNICK (Wollongong)

	ADELAIDE GIANTS	ADELAIDE HAWKS	BLACKTOWN DEMONS	BRISBANE GLADIATORS	BRISBANE LIONS	CANBERRA ARROWS	FOOTSCRAY EAGLES	HEIDELBERG WARRIORS	LEICHHARDT STRIKERS	MARCONI LEOPARDS	MELBOURNE GUNNERS	NEWCASTLE KB	PRESTON RAMS	SYDNEY OLYMPIANS	SYDNEY SLICKERS	WOLLONGONG WOLVES
ADELAIDE GIANTS	*				3-2			3-1		0-1					0-1	
ADELAIDE HAWKS		*	2-0						1-2			0-1				
BLACKTOWN DEMONS			*		2-2				0-1		2-2					
BRISBANE GLADIATORS		2-1		*		0-0	2-0							3-0		
BRISBANE LIONS					*							0-1	2-1			1-1
CANBERRA ARROWS	0-0	1-2				*								2-1	2-0	
FOOTSCRAY EAGLES	1-1						*		2-1	1-2	1-2					
HEIDELBERG WARRIORS				2-0				*					2-3	1-0		0-3
LEICHHARDT STRIKERS					0-0				2-2	*		2-1				
MARCONI LEOPARDS		1-0		1-1		0-2				*			1-0			
MELBOURNE GUNNERS					1-0			2-1		1-0	*	2-0				
NEWCASTLE KB			1-1				3-0					*				1-1
PRESTON RAMS			2-3			0-1	3-0						*	3-1		
SYDNEY OLYMPIANS	3-1										2-2			*	2-2	
SYDNEY SLICKERS		1-0		1-1				1-0		5-0					*	
WOLLONGONG WOLVES			1-1				2-1		1-1					3-1		*

Bannon's exit a mistake: Rooney

Jimmy Rooney is one of the grand "old" men of Australian soccer. World Cup team member in 1974 and 1977, it was only last season under the new regime of Rudi Gutendorf that Rooney, now clearly in the veteran stage, had to bow out of the team. Last season he and Pat Bannon jointly coached Heidelberg for a few months before handing over the reins to their mentor, Len McKendry. This year McKendry left, Manny Poulakakis took over, then got the sack — together with Pat Bannon. And now Rooney has the onerous task of getting Heidelberg out of its domestic mess and back on the winning trail, after yet another defeat against Sydney City.

—An unhappy game and unhappy result for you?

—You're always unhappy when you lose. I thought we took the game to them in the second half and we were rather unfortunate being denied three handball incidents and possible penalties.

—The style and display of Heidelberg doesn't come anywhere near last year's brilliance.

—Sure, we're not the same team as we were last year — yet. There are a lot of things to be done before we're even near last year's standard. But we've got to start some place and we can't transform the team overnight. It's sad that McKendry wasn't kept on. Under him we got into a certain style of play.

—Isn't it a bit unusual to change the coach after a remarkably successful season?

—Yes, it's very unusual.

—Would you say that most players were sorry to see him go?

—Nearly to a man.

—Were the players consulted?

—The players have nothing to do with that. It's a business decision of the committee, it's up to them to come to terms with a coach.

—Is your appointment as a coach permanent?

—No, I'm still negotiating with the club. I'm acting coach now and we've to sort out a few problems, mainly the way Paddy Bannon was handled.

—Did you make any representation to the club to have Bannon retained?

—Yes, but the damage was done by them. It was very badly done.

(Before we talked to Rooney, we asked the same question of president Arthur Loustas. He said: "Nobody asked us to keep Bannon. Anyway, for his services we gave Bannon a free transfer to Croatia.")

—Was Bannon a vital cog in the Heidelberg machine?

—Bannon was a great player for this club and a great colleague, he went on to bat for the other players, everytime we had any problems. Maybe he was a little bit

outspoken but that's not a fault, that's an asset for the man. He had the greatest respect from all the other players. A great fellow, a great player and a very close friend of mine.

—Do you plan to become a fulltime coach?

—No, I want to keep on playing until I can't play at this level anymore. After that I'll consider my future. Football will always be my life. It's very hard at the moment when you're playing and coaching at the same time. I never believed in player-coaches at this level but in the situation we are in at the moment I think we're better off with me on the park, not off it.

—How do you see the form of the Soccerroos in your team now? Some, especially Cole, had a poor game?

—I wish people would lay off Cole, he is under so much pressure. The way we played today, especially in the first half, he had little support, he couldn't lay off the balls. I believe he'll do a great job for Australia.

—What about Tansey, after his long injury spell?

—I was pleased with his form. There's still some 20 days to go before the Auckland match and it wouldn't be the same class of a side without Jimmy Tansey. He didn't go forward today as much as he used to but in the defence he was never beaten.

—And Yzendoorn? What's his real position?

—He's the best sweeper in the country by far, by a long mile. I don't know where Gutendorf will use him but he could do him a job from almost anywhere. He is nearly the complete footballer.

—What about Selemdis?

—He and Jimmy Campbell are working hard at their game, mainly in their defensive role, picking up men and staying with them. We haven't had much chance in the last three years to concentrate on the attacking moves. It's nearly always been defense...

• CREATOR

—Are you happy with your own form?

—Last week I was, today I was more concerned being an organiser than a creator. I was quite pleased with the way things were going in the first 35 minutes, until the goal. Then I was disappointed. We planned to go at them in the second half and we did do that but we were very unlucky not to score, especially Jimmy Campbell. And then those handballs, two in the first half, one in the second. I think the referee knew but he just didn't give the penalty. He must have thought that the ball played the man but I disagree: the ball changed directions each time. Still, I guess it's all in the game.

—a.d.

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

• Ken Morton, Wollongong: "The match was a great spectacle for the supporters. I think we richly deserved to take both points."

• Wollongong are pleased with their crowd figures which are comfortably above the planned break-even point.

• Ken Boden, Sydney City's Australian striker, has a mild muscle injury but should be fit again for the weekend.

• Brian Edgely, Preston, days after being fined \$500 for abusing a referee, was as vocal as ever about the man in black. "The standard is at its worst ever. They try to make their mark on the game by handing out too many yellow cards and turned the match into a spiteful game. We'll step up our search for a top keeper. We've given too many points away through bad keeping errors. Blacktown's goals were their only decent shots at goal. Lou Kastner has lost a lot of confidence although this league is easier goalkeeping-wise than the State League. He has cost us six points and we could've been top of the league by now."

• Tommy Docherty, Olympic: "We were the better team in the first half. Our side needs more steel, especially at the back. Still, we will keep playing an open, attacking soccer."

• Canberra's George Murray: "Olympic were better in the first 45 minutes. I had some strong words to my players at the interval and they responded well."

• George Potter, Brisbane City: "Happy with the two points but really we should have scored more goals. Footscray were not a good side and we had lots of possession. Some individual performances improved and Willie Conner supplied the spark when he came on."

• Adelaide Giants coach Bob D'Ottavi gambled on the fitness of Brian Northcote and Glenn Dods when he fielded them against Brisbane Lions last Sunday. Kiwi international Dods had missed five games through a knee injury and Northcote had been sidelined for three matches because of a recurring back injury.

• Brisbane Lions coach, Matt Carson: "We threw the game away in the first 20 minutes, but I was proud of the way my boys fought back."

• Adelaide Giants coach, Bob D'Ottavi: "The win over Lions means we have collected five out of a possible six points from our last three league games and that indicates that we are on our way."

• West Adelaide Hawks new Scottish winger Jimmy Wright who arrived last week is expected to make his PSL debut against Wollongong Wolves at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

• Rale Rasic, Blacktown: "It was a typically hard championship match. Preston deserve credit for their fight despite being down to 10 men, but my team fought harder for every inch. We proved a point today that we are a very different team from the defensive reputation we've been given. Ortega's and Djordjevic's injuries both look serious but Blacktown will have Rick Hormazabal back after suspension and hopefully Paul Burrows after injury for next week."

SOCCER WORLD

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Laing

SYDNEY OLYMPIANS

Likely squad: 1. Meier, 2. Moulis, 3. Cross, 4. Wilson, 5. Rowden, 6. Katholos, 7. Housseini, 8. Cork, 9. Gavin, 10. Scott, 11. Jennings, 12. Ankudinoff, 14. Koussas, 15. Ziras, 16. Jamieson, 18. Laing, 20. Wilson. Coach: T. Docherty.

Sunday, 3pm
Pratten Park

Next week: Olympic at home to West Adelaide

PAST RESULTS:

1977: Olympic v Marconi 0-2
1978: Olympic v Marconi 1-1
1979: Olympic v Marconi 0-3

MARCONI LEOPARDS

Likely squad: 1. Maher, 2. Brogan, 4. Henderson, 5. Prskalo, 6. Byrne, 9. Krncevic, 10. Mariani, 11. Sharne, 12. Picloane, 13. Muir, 14. Housseini, 16. Tomasich, 17. Coluso, 20. Corry. Coach: R. Blanco.

REFEREE: A. Boskovic
Linesmen: A. Owens
M. Loupis

Next week: Marconi at home to Heidelberg



Housseini



Ortega

BLACKTOWN DEMONS

Likely squad: 1. James, 2. Wheatley, 3. Pollard, 4. Milovanovic, 5. Pointer, 6. Selvage, 7. Djordjevic, 8. Hormazabal, 9. Culina, 10. O'Donnell, 11. Mannino, 12. Quarmby, 13. Cuk, 15. Wallace, 18. Milosevic, 20. Freeman. Coach: R. Rasic.

Sunday, 3pm
Gabbie Stadium

Next week: Blacktown away to Brisbane City

PAST RESULTS:

1980: Blacktown v Adelaide City 1-2

ADELAIDE GIANTS

Likely squad: 1. Marshall, 2. Russell, 3. B. Nyskohus, 4. Besir, 5. Jones, 6. Dods, 8. Perin, 9. Marocchi, 10. J. Nyskohus, 11. Mitchell, 12. Northcote, 13. Meita, 14. Miller, 16. Villani, 17. Signore, 22. Peressin. Coach: B. D'Ottavi.

REFEREE: D. Rennie
Linesmen: B. Fowler
T. Williams

Next week: Adelaide City at home to Newcastle.



Northcote



Kafka

LEICHHARDT STRIKERS

Likely squad: 1. Woodhouse, 2. Skeltern, 3. McAusland, 4. Pullen, 5. Wilson, 6. Coyne, 7. Soper, 8. Pirie, 9. Giampaolo, 10. Kafka, 11. O'Connor, 12. Harding, 13. Bradley, 14. Leyden, 15. McKie, 18. Gray, 20. Parks. Coach: W. Wallace.

Sunday, 3pm
Lambert Park

Next week: Leichhardt away to Preston

PAST RESULTS:

1979: Leichhardt v Sth. Melbourne 2-1
1980: Leichhardt v Sth. Melbourne 1-0

MELBOURNE GUNNERS

Likely squad: 1. Laumets, 2. V. Bannon, 3. Davidson, 4. Lutton, 5. Xanthopoulos, 6. Rogers, 7. Wright, 8. Christopoulos, 9. Cummings, 10. Evans, 11. Buljevic, 12. Kalafatidis, 14. Campbell, 15. Stevenson, 16. Shirra, 19. Blair, 20. Tsigaras. Coach: H. Margaritis.

REFEREE: P. Rampley
Linesmen: R. Barton
P. Wood

Next week: Sth. Melbourne at home to Wollongong



V. Bannon



Heys

NEWCASTLE KB RAIDERS

Likely squad: 1. Dando, 2. Reaney, 4. Senkalski, 5. Bertogna, 6. Drinkwater, 7. Sumner, 8. Mountford, 9. Jones, 10. Heys, 11. Buckley, 12. Mason, 13. Burrows, 14. Sneddon, 15. Curran, 16. Kamasz, 17. McClelland, 20. Gosling. Coach: A. Vest.

Sunday, 2.30pm
International Sports Centre

Next week: Newcastle away to Adelaide City

PAST RESULTS:

Newcastle and Preston meeting for the first time.

PRESTON RAMS

Likely squad: 1. Kastner, 2. Rainey, 3. Beech, 4. Ollerton, 5. Higham, 6. Faulkner, 7. Cullen, 8. Flavell, 9. McMillan, 10. Petrovski, 11. Ward, 12. Brown, 13. Lucchesi, 14. Little, 15. Stoikos. Coach: B. Edgeley.

REFEREE: A. Rodway
Linesmen: W. Jones
O. Scevak

Next week: Preston at home to Leichhardt



Brown



Manecas

ADELAIDE HAWKS

Likely squad: 1. Crook, 2. Tymczyszyn, 3. Pillans, 4. McGachey, 5. Topaz, 6. Bozanic, 7. Bovic, 8. Manecas, 10. Honeyman, 11. McGregor, 12. Forde, 13. Haig, 14. Flounders, 21. Hughes, 20. Miller, 25. Lopez. Coach: B. Birch.

Sunday, 2.30pm
Hindmarsh

Next week: West Adelaide away to Olympic

PAST RESULTS:

West Adelaide and Wollongong meeting for the first time.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Likely squad: 1. Preston, 2. Willis, 4. Dunleavy, 5. Ainsworth, 6. Adam, 7. Smith, 8. Fleming, 9. Campbell, 10. Lathan, 11. Morlando, 12. Vliestra, 13. McBreen, 14. Turner, 15. De Graaf, 16. Tredinnick, 17. Harrison, 18. Morton, 19. Fontana. Coach: K. Morton.

REFEREE: G. Neal
Linesmen: C. Barbo
T. Martell

Next week: Wollongong away to Sth. Melbourne



Morton



Hermiston

BRISBANE LIONS

Likely squad: 1. Scanlan, 2. Ontong, 3. Niven, 4. Lindsay, 5. Bennett, 6. Hermiston, 7. Hogg, 8. McLean, 9. Ferris, 10. Millman, 11. McNaughton, 12. McGregor, 14. Ogden, 17. Wright, 18. Konstantinou, 20. Lowndes. Coach: M. Carson.

Sunday, 3pm
Richlands

Next week: Lions away to Sydney City

PAST RESULTS:

1977: Bris. Lions v Bris. City 2-1
1978: Bris. Lions v Bris. City 1-2
1979: Bris. Lions v Bris. City 1-2
1980: Bris. Lions v Bris. City 1-0

BRISBANE GLADIATORS

Likely squad: 1. Wishart, 2. Dunne, 3. Ratcliffe, 4. Tokesi, 5. Perry, 6. Gaffney, 7. Palinkas, 8. Pimblett, 9. Conner, 10. Low, 11. Caldwell, 14. Hamilton, 15. P. Wilkinson, 16. McVeigh, 17. B. Wilkinson, 20. Coe. Coach: G. Potter.

REFEREE: K. Allen
Linesmen: C. Amos
D. Klose

Next week: Brisbane City at home to Blacktown



Low



Taylor

HEIDELBERG WARRIORS

Likely squad: 1. Olver, 2. McMillan, 3. Tansey, 4. Yzendoorn, 6. Selemidis, 7. Rooney, 8. Campbell, 9. Paton, 11. Bozikas, 12. Yankos, 13. McGrory, 14. Provan, 15. Taylor, 16. Cole, 17. Williams, 18. Monagle, 20. Reilly. Coach: J. Rooney.

Sunday, 3pm
Olympic Park

Next week: Heidelberg away to Marconi

PAST RESULTS:

1977: Heidelberg v Canberra 2-0
1978: Heidelberg v Canberra 0-1
1979: Heidelberg v Canberra 0-0
1980: Heidelberg v Canberra 2-0

CANBERRA ARROWS

Likely squad: 1. Wilson, 2. M. O'Shea, 3. Williams, 4. Cole, 5. J. O'Shea, 6. Stark, 7. R. O'Shea, 8. Byrne, 9. Valeri, 10. McLaren, 11. Brennan, 14. Massa, 15. Moutsopoulos, 16. Farrell, 21. Hozzowski. Coach: G. Murray.

REFEREE: E. Venios
Linesmen: J. Brennan
N. Karlich

Next week: Canberra at home to Footscray



Farrell



Ilioski

FOOTSCRAY EAGLES

Likely squad: 1. Boland, 2. Hazabent, 3. Petrou, 4. Kyriakoulas, 5. Kondarios, 6. Jovanovic, 7. Simic, 8. Ilioski, 10. Vasic, 11. McLaughlin, 12. McIvor, 13. Petrou, 14. Belic, 15. Kakantonis, 16. Curovic, 17. Cozzella, 18. Milne. Coach: C. Cerkovic.

Sunday, 3pm
Schintler

Next week: Footscray away to Canberra

PAST RESULTS:

1977: Footscray v Sydney City 2-2
1978: Footscray v Sydney City 1-1
1979: Footscray v Sydney City 1-0
1980: Footscray v Sydney City 1-2

SYDNEY SLICKERS

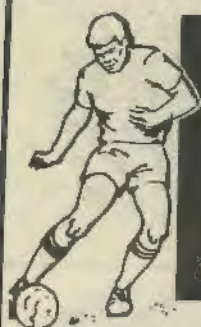
Likely squad: 1. Clarke, 3. Spanos, 4. O'Connor, 5. Bruce, 6. Murray, 7. Watson, 8. Barnes, 9. Boden, 10. Kosmina, 12. Cant, 15. Muniz, 18. Souness, 19. Trenter, 20. Pezzano. Coach: E. Thomson.

REFEREE: D. Voutsinas
Linesmen: J. Fearn
S. Zoumas

Next week: Sydney City at home to Lions.

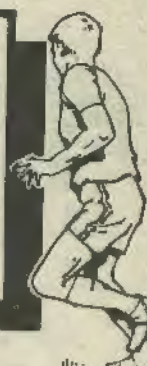


O'Connor



SCOREBOARD

DATSUN



THE NSW DATSUN DEALER NETWORK PROUDLY SUPPORTS AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

MARCONI v WEST ADELAIDE 1-0 (0-0)

Marconi (4-3-3)
 Degney (3) Henderson (4) Maher (4) Mariani (3) Prskalo (3)
 Housseini (4) Byrne (4) Colusso (4)
 Sharne (3) Krncevic (3) Jankovics (3)
 Pillans (4) Honeyman (4)
 Norris (3) Brown (3) McGachey (3) Tymcschyszyn (4)
 Bozanic (3) Topaz (4) Kambas (3) Marusic (3)
 Crook (4)

West Adelaide (4-4-2)

Replacements: Muir (87m) for Colusso.
 Goal: Sharne (78m).

Referee: R. Lorenc — Crowd: 3,550 — Cautions: Norris, Marusic, Kambas.

The first half saw a well organised West Adelaide defence easily contain a rather inept Marconi attack.

Marconi had more of the play but lacked imagination and Martyn Crook handled well all the high balls meant for the tall Marconi strikers.

West Adelaide were clearly playing for a point and were content to calmly fill the ball at the back and slowly building up their moves, always aiming to find Pillans and Honeyman, their two front runners, who held the ball well until support arrived.

After the heavy downpour and the despair of the first half, the Marconi fans prayed for a ray of hope as sunshine broke through for the second stanza.

STRUGGLING

Marconi started this half in a do-or-die spirit; they pressed forward but it wasn't until the 54th minute that they nearly got their goal.

Sharne took a corner and Mariani flicked it on only to see Marusic clear from under the crossbar.

The Marconi midfield kept on prompting and built many promising attacks.

Fullbacks Degney and Prskalo were busy overlapping and their crosses produced many anxious moments in the penalty box.

West Adelaide's attacks by now were sporadic and Maher was out of action until the 65th minute.

In the 78th minute Sharne latched onto another through-pass and set off on a determined run.

He shrugged off a challenge by Kambas and sliced the ball, from a difficult angle, under the body of Crook.

The goal injected a magic confidence into the Marconi players as they kept pressing forward, moving the ball about freely, showing the fans their style of old.

West Adelaide's resolute rearguard action nearly achieved the desired result of sharing a point.

It always seemed that whoever can score a

single goal will be assured of taking the points.

This, ultimately, came off for the more enterprising Marconi.

The attack still didn't function smoothly, despite an enormous amount of possession of the ball.

The strikers, under heavy criticism from the club, did make an effort to redeem themselves for recent escapades but didn't "feel" the goal somehow.

West Adelaide seldom looked dangerous and it would have been appalling had they been able to snatch a draw with their ultra-defensive trench warfare.

Mike Mikolajczyk

WOLLONGONG v LEICHHARDT 1-1 (1-1)

Wollongong (4-3-3)
 Adam (3) Dunleavy (4) Preston (3) De Graaf (4) Ainsworth (4)
 McBreen (4) Fleming (3) Lathan (3)
 Fontana (2) Campbell (4) Tredinnick (5)
 O'Connor (3) Soper (2) Giampaolo (3)
 Leyden (3) Coyne (3) Kafka (4)
 McAusland (4) Pullen (4) Wilson (5) McKie (3)
 Woodhouse (4)

Leichhardt (4-3-3)

Replacements: Vardaroff (2m. 3.) for Preston, Morsello (70m) for Soper, Turner (75m) for Fontana.
 Goals: 0-1 Kafka (5m), 1-1 Tredinnick (11m).
 Referee: G. Power — Crowd: 6,087.

Wollongong squandered a valuable point in a match which had the crowd wild with excitement from the start.

This was the Wolves' fourth consecutive 1-1 draw and a game they should have won.

Only some bad luck and some poor finishing let Leichhardt escape with the point.

The game was a direct confrontation between the eager Wolves attack and the Peter Wilson-led defence, providing the best entertainment for the local supporters this season.

Wilson, who started his Australian career with South Coast United in 1968, and still lives

only two miles from the local Showground, was under a lot of pressure throughout the game.

Leichhardt went ahead after only five minutes when Kafka sent a freekick around the wall and out of the reach of Jim Preston's fingertips.

Preston suffered a groin injury minutes later and was replaced by Vardaroff.

However, he was never really tested, such was the dominance of the Wolves defence.

This was the first time in seven matches that the Wolves were behind

and it was a real test of their character.

Peter Tredinnick who had a great match, led wave after wave of attacking raids on the Leichhardt goal.

Tredinnick and McBreen shot wide just before the Wolves equaliser arrived.

In doubt, because of a leg injury just before the kick-off, Tredinnick picked up a headed clearance and flashed a searing 20-metre drive into the corner.

The remainder of the first half was a thrill-a-minute: Woodhouse

made a brilliant save from Dunleavy to keep the score intact.

The Wolves created several good chances in the second half, the best falling to Tredinnick who brushed past Wilson and thundered a shot against the Leichhardt post.

Wollongong had a glut of possession in midfield and kept Leichhardt under a lot of pressure.

Brian Turner, sadly out of touch in recent weeks, came on for Glen Fontana with 15 minutes left but couldn't get behind the Leichhardt defence.

It was Dunleavy who, in the dying seconds, muffed a simple chance by shooting over the crossbar.

— Paul Posetti

SYDNEY CITY v HEIDELBERG 1-0 (1-0)

Sydney City (4-3-3)
 Souness (4) Spanos (4) Clarke (4) O'Connor (4) Bruce (3)
 Patikas (4) Muniz (3) Barnes (3)
 Watson (4) Boden (3) Kosmina (3)
 Bozikas (2) Cole (2)
 Campbell (2) Rooney (2) Taylor (2) Selemidis (3)
 Tansey (3) Yzendoorn (3) Provan (2) McMillan (3)
 Oliver (3)

Heidelberg (4-4-2)

Replacements: Cant (80m) for Watson, Gomez (80m) for Boden.
 Goals: Boden (36m).
 Referee: K. Small — Crowd: 2,200.

This was like a vintage Alec Guinness movie — a comedy of errors but without the accompanying laughter.

Sydney City in the first half, Heidelberg throughout the match looked third rate without any discernible pattern, ideas, flair and, often, skill.

The first half passed as a compressed tedium with both teams guilty of hair-raising ball handling crimes and the sloppiest passing you ever want to see.

Sydney attacked by default — Heidelberg simply refused to go forward at all, with their two strikers more isolated than people with infectious diseases.

The first decent move of the match produced the goal.

In the 36th minute the lively Patikas sent in a low, sharp though hopeless looking cross into the goalmouth.

And there, incredibly, McMillan, Provan and Oliver all missed the simple ball which went to the unmarked Boden some six metres from the goal: 1-0.

A good Kosmina shot and fine Oliver save closed the dull first half of the Sydney season.

Things simply couldn't

get worse after the interval and any improvement was due entirely to Sydney City which at least moved forward.

Kosmina, then Muniz and finally Barnes could have added to the tally but either missed or were frustrated by Oliver.

Stunningly, Heidelberg never changed their passive pattern even when defeat looked certain.

In front of a jittery defence and an unproductive midfield, the two out of form strikers were condemned to starvation.

They contributed to their downfall through their lack of mobility and unwillingness to move in the width of the field; Cole, for one, was using the narrowest of strips in the middle as if the rest of the ground was a minefield.

There is simply no resemblance between this Heidelberg and last year's classy, methodical team.

How Len McKendry must be smirking now, seeing a confused club management destroying his masterpiece of 1980.

Sydney City's display was of average standard.

— Andrew Dettre

SOUTH MELBOURNE v NEWCASTLE 2-0 (1-0)

South Melbourne (4-3-3)
 V.Bannon (5) Blair (4) Laumets (4) Lutton (4) Davidson (5)
 Stevenson (4) Shirra (4) Rogers (4)
 Cumming (4) Evans (4) Buljevic (4)
 Buckley (3) Mountford (4) Heys (3)
 Senkalski (5) Sumner (4) McClelland (3)
 H. Tredinnick (3) Bertogna (4) Drinkwater (4) Reaney (4)
 Dando (4)

Newcastle (4-3-3)

Replacements: Mason (80m) for Sumner, Jones (80m) for Buckley.
 Goals: 1-0 Davidson (21m. pen.), 2-0 Stevenson (66m).
 Referee: S. Mellings — Crowd: 6,000 — Caution: McClelland.

All the earmarks of a tense and torrid battle between two sides, who were prepared to press forward in a goal scoring effort, were evident right from the start.

The early sorties by Evans, Cumming and Buljevic were countered by a rotating attack by midfielders and strikers from Newcastle. Senkalski and Sumner were notable for flair and persistence in pressing a solid defence to their classiest performance this year.

Souths attack came good with some neat moves to lay claim to midfield backing by Vic Bannon, who is the only two footed defensive player in Philips League.

Evans, ever alert, flicked the ball to

Buljevic who transferred to Cummings. His header was blocked by Reaney, who was unfortunate in handling the ball at the 21st minute. Davidson made no mistake with the spot kick.

Bannon started the move, Evans drew several opponents to set up John Stevenson for a hot, low drive which Phil Dando played magnificently by gripping tightly a few minutes before halftime.

Joe Senkalski had starred in everything for Newcastle in every department.

The second half began in similar vein: South

were on the rampage now, and play was fast and furious, with mainly Dando keeping Evans, Cumming and Shirra from scoring.

Right on the hour, South's attack built up threat after threat, with Evans the target for the Newcastle defence.

Drawing them expertly across field, he placed the ball right for Stevenson to score a real cracker of a goal from about 30 metres.

What a goal!!! The fans were still on about it long after the final whistle had blown.

By this time Newcastle did not have

much reserves in energy left, and South could have been in the same plight as it had been an energy-sapping game for all, and those two goals looked mighty sweet in South's favour.

Senkalski turned and dribbled the ball clear before unleashing a powerful drive which Laumets was pleased to push for a corner.

Regarding the penalty, Alan Vest did feel that it was a hard decision, but as I saw it, there was only one decision to be made.

One can sympathise with Paul Reaney when it happened, but the result of the game was not really influenced by that incident.

— Jack Stephen



WESTFIELD SCOREBOARD

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Westfield
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ADELAIDE CITY v BRISBANE LIONS 3-2 (3-1)

Adelaide City (4-3-3)

Russell (4)	Jones (3)	Marshall (3)	Perin (4)	B. Nyskohus (5)
Marocchi (3)		Melta (3)		Dods (3)
Northcote (3)		Mitchell (4)		J. Nyskohus (3)
Ferris (3)		Bryce (3)		Millman (3)
Lindsay (3)		McLean (4)		Hogg (3)
Niven (3)	Hermiston (4)		Bennett (4)	Ontong (5)
		Lowndes (3)		

Brisbane Lions (4-3-3)

Replacements: Villani (73m) for Northcote, Miller (87m) for Mitchell, Konstantinou (65m) for Ferris, Verweij (79m) for Bryce.
Goals: 1-0 Russell (4m), 2-0 Mitchell (8m), 2-1 Bryce (13m), 3-1 Marocchi (17m), 3-2 Hermiston (77m).
Referee: J. Rossis — Crowd: 3,250 — Cautions: Dods, Ontong.

This timely win enabled the Giants to set the stage for a classic confrontation with the Blacktown Demons on Sunday.

The Giants zoomed up the league ladder from 13th to 10th place and are now just one goal ahead of 11th placed Blacktown.

With three goals to their credit after only 17 minutes last Sunday, the Giants appeared set to net a cricket score, but the gutsy Lions hit back to go within an ace of snatching a draw.

There was a fascinating pattern about this game which set it apart from others played this season because the Giants embarked on their goal spree with a defensive formation.

GOAL-SPREE

Yet when they discarded the safety net and changed from 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 in the second half they failed to score and the Lions took command.

It was all go, go, go at the start as Giants, who had managed only five goals from their previous six games, suddenly netted two in the first whirlwind eight minutes.

The irrepressible Bobby Russell showed the way in the fourth minute when he beat Nigel Lowndes with a great shot after accepting a return pass from Brian Northcote to complete a withering run which started from the halfway line.

It was as if the return to their "real" home ground — Olympic Sports Field — had weaved some magical spell for the Giants as Soccerroo Youth squad member David Mitchell made it 2-0 when he intercepted a weak pass back by Jim Hermiston to lob Lowndes in the Lions goal.

But Lions retaliated five minutes later when their boy from the "bush" Lyle Bryce netted his second goal in as many games after latching on to a left wing corner from Bobby Ferris.

Giants skipper Gary Marocchi saw to it that Lions resurgence was short-lived by restoring

the home team's advantage following an unselfish pass by Johnny Nyskohus.

When Marocchi's shot hit the back of the net he maintained a remarkable match average of almost a goal every four minutes.

The complexion changed dramatically, however, because it took another hour before the next goal was scored.

A fine header from Hermiston brought Lions their second success of the afternoon as the big defender rose to meet a floated freekick from Soccerroo fullback Alan Niven.

Suddenly Lions had a glimmer of hope of salvaging a point, but Giants hung on for the final 13 minutes to earn their second win of the season. — Allan Crisp

CANBERRA v OLYMPIC 2-1 (0-1)

Canberra (4-3-3)

M.O'Shea (3)	Byrne (3)	Wilson (4)	Stark (3)	R.O'Shea (3)
Cole (3)	J. O'Shea (3)		Farrell (4)	
Brennan (4)	Valeri (3)		Maclaren (3)	
Jennings (3)	Koussas (3)		Cotton (4)	Laing (2)
	Katholos (5)		Raskopoulos (4)	
Palmer (3)	Rowden (3)		Zeros (4)	Moulis (3)
		Meier (4)		

Replacements: Gibson (46m) for Maclaren, Massa (65m) for Farrell, Eaton (57m) for Jennings.
Goals: 0-1 Cotton (31m), 1-1 Brennan (64m), 2-1 Gibson (72m).
Referee: C. Bambridge — Crowd: 5,680 — Cautions: R. O'Shea, Raskopoulos.

The match was full of excitement for the whole of the 90 minutes, entertaining Canberra's largest crowd of the season.

Canberra attacked with vigor for the first 20 minutes and their opening goal seemed only a matter of time.

Cole and Maclaren both had chances but missed and allowed Olympic to settle down and play their bright, open, attacking brand of soccer.

The Olympic midfielder Peter Katholos controlled his area with consummate ease.

In the 31st minute he rounded Byrne on the left wing and crossed in a low ball.

BIG DEBUT

On hand was new signing Roy Cotton who rifled the ball past Wilson.

After this shock the Canberra players repeatedly went through the motions of attack without looking convincing.

However, the start of the second half signalled the beginning of a new epoch.

New Scottish signing Ian Gibson added a new dimension to the attack.

In the 54th minute Byrne sent a through ball to Brennan who sprinted downfield.

His shot rebounded off the goalie and Brennan made no mistake for the second time.

With the match deadlocked, the crowd rose to support their side with vocal strength not heard at the Bruce Stadium for a long time.

The unexpected scorer of the match-winning goal was Ian Gibson, from Kilmarnock who had been in Canberra for less than a week.

He skirted around three defenders before whipping the ball past Meier into the far corner.

A sad note for Canberra was that Walter Valeri twisted his ankle and will miss the Soccerroo training camp.

In fact, Valeri may be out for about three weeks — dashing his hopes of getting into the team against New Zealand.

Olympic, though beaten, can take heart from their display which was always exciting, open and lacking only in discipline.

Had their backline been a bit more disciplined and determined, perhaps they could have stolen a point — and not entirely undeserved, either.

— Peter Kunz

BRISBANE CITY v FOOTSCRAY 2-0 (0-0)

Brisbane City (4-3-3)

Perry (3)	Dunne (5)	Coe (3)	Ratcliffe (4)	B. Wilkinson (4)
Gaffney (3)		Pimblett (3)		Hamilton (3)
McVeigh (2)		P. Wilkinson (3)		Low (2)
Cozzola (2)		McLaughlin (2)		Vasic (2)
Belic (2)		Kakantonis (2)		Petrov (2)
Hazabent (3)	Illoski (3)		Kondarios (3)	Milne (3)
		Boland (4)		

Footscray (4-3-3)

Replacements: Connor (60m) for McVeigh, Simic (72m) for McLaughlin, Curovic (79m) for Vasic.
Goals: 1-0 P. Wilkinson (71m), 2-0 Connor (80m).
Referee: J. Wood — Crowd: 2,100 — Cautions: Ratcliffe.

Brisbane City have to be criticised for this performance inasmuch as they did not score at least 10 goals.

Footscray were woeful, a pale shadow of the former sides that have battled in the Phillips League but never failed to entertain.

The southerners started brightly but it was only a fizzle for them as soon as the immaculate Dunne and the uncompromising Ratcliffe settled down.

Coe could have gone home for all he had to do.

For the remaining 80 minutes City huffed and puffed but seldom looked like doing anything against a

WASTEFUL

backline only too willing to clear the ball at all costs.

This type of desperation seemed to transfer itself to the City front runners and despite a few individual attempts halftime came with little to enthuse over.

The second half continued in a like manner until the 15 minute mark when Willie Conner was introduced into City's attack.

Two minutes later Conner penetrated the defence with a pass to

Low who put a cross direct to Wilkinson who crashed a header against the bar.

Nine minutes later the same player had better luck when he got on the end of a beautifully taken corner kick and beat Boland easily.

Footscray brought on two new men but Conner killed the game a minute later when he sent P. Wilkinson through and the big striker unselfishly set up the little winger for a tap in goal.

Between this goal and the end City could have scored another four but

Boland provided his usual brand of heroics to keep the score down.

The Footscray attack simply didn't exist and new signing Kakantonis was just as ineffective as his partners.

How Footscray must be missing their star winger Lujic, still back in Yugoslavia.

After this display it no longer comes as a surprise that Footscray are at the bottom of the table.

And they will need much more than good luck to move away from there.

— Jim Binnie

PRESTON v BLACKTOWN 2-3 (0-1)

Preston (4-3-3)

Beech (3)	Higham (2)	Kastner (2)	Petrovski (3)	Rainey (2)
Lucchessi (4)		Flavell (3)		Faulkner (3)
Brown (3)		Ollerton (4)		Cullen (2)
		Cuk (5)	Djordjevic (3)	Wallace (4)
		Selvaige (4)		Culina (3)
O'Donnell (4)	Pointer (4)		Milovanovic (4)	Wheatley (4)
		James (3)		

Blacktown (4-3-3)

Replacements: Milosevic (52m) for Ortega, Rasmussen (57m) for Djordjevic, McMillan (72m) for Higham, Little (80m) for Faulkner.
Goals: 0-1 Cuk (22m), 1-1 Ollerton (49m), 1-2 Wallace (54m), 2-2 Ollerton (65m), 2-3 Wallace (74m).
Sent off: Cullen (37m) — Cautions: Wallace, Rasmussen, Milosevic, Ollerton, Beech Lucchessi.
Referee: D. Yelland — Crowd: 3,500.

Rale Rasic may have to plan the downfall of his previous charges Adelaide City this week without the services of top import Jovan Djordjevic and midfielder Carlos Ortega.

Djordjevic was tackled making the cross for Blacktown's second goal after a great dash down the right. Craig Wallace capitalised on slack marking to head home from inside the penalty.

The wing dash and cross was the only notable thing Djordjevic had done through the game but his pace down the flanks will worry many teams before the season is out.

The Yugoslav was carried off in the 57th minute, only five minutes after Carlos Ortega had to be replaced

following two bad fouls on him which left him writhing in pain.

The first, a waist high kick after he had come away from a tussle with the ball, earned Robert Cullen a sending off in the 37th minute.

But through it all Rasic came through as the master tactician, blotting out Doug Brown and Cullen (for the short time he was on the field) with tight marking speedy fullbacks.

The Demons hit the front after 22 minutes through Peter Cuk, who rose unchallenged to meet Brian O'Donnell's freekick to head past Lou Kastner.

Preston equalised to 1-1 and 2-2 through Peter Ollerton.

The first equaliser was started by a move from Steve Beech only four minutes after the restart. Brown collected the fullback's centre, shot past James at an angle from the left the ball bounced off the post but only as far as Ollerton who planted it home.

Then after Wallace had put Blacktown in front, Ollerton headed home Mike Rainey's right wing cross after 65 minutes for number two.

Cuk had dominated John Higham in the air but the Preston centre back was the only man who could contest

headers with him because of the lack of height in the back four, so it came as a surprise when he was taken off to be replaced by a forward George McMillan.

The winning goal resulted from another cross into the area this time from the right by Culina.

Wallace found the space to head past a static Kastner, the ball again hit the post but the blond haired forward met the rebound to slam home from close range.

Rasic then switched Cuk as sweeper behind the back four to hold out for the win.

But the coach was right in pointing out that the team is not overly defensive.

— Paul Giles

COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE REPORT

By Paul James



There is still a long way to go to complete the State League, but after six rounds we asked the various clubs how they felt about their performances so far — in view of their pre-season hopes.

And we also asked if they felt the State League was getting better or worse, or if it was attracting, through the gates, the number of people it should.

MELITA

Considering everything that's happened to us since last year I think it's really amazing that we're actually stronger than we were in 1980," said Melita president Emmanuel Baid.

"We lost players like Darvill, McDonald and Juchniewicz and coach Abonyl, while Terry Jones hasn't kicked a ball all year because of injury, yet the side is shaping up as a powerful unit," he said.

"I think there were a number of people who felt Vic Dalgleish wouldn't succeed with Melita.

"But he has been able to weld the players into a very strong unit and keep the side playing attractive, attacking soccer," Emmanuel said.

"Most of the State League teams are stronger this year and I think the State League as a whole is a much tougher competition.

"St. George are far tougher than Olympic were last year, while Croatia have rebuilt and Sutherland are rebuilding their teams.

"And I still say that Riverwood will be the dark horses of the competition," Emmanuel added.

MANLY



"We've been a bit disappointed with our first six matches," said Manly's Ron Beattie.

"We started really well, but we've had three losses in a row now and things are starting to look a little unsettled," he said.

"What pleased us most about the opening rounds and the Ampol Cup was the spirit and fighting quality of the side.

"But in the last few games we've only seen it in spasms.

"Against Croatia the lads fought magnificently and were unlucky to go down," he said.

"But for some reason, which I'm at a loss to explain, we've started to fade.

"I just hope we get back on the rails soon," Ron said.

Ron said he felt the standard of the State League was fairly high and there were some entertaining sides in the competition.

"The top of the State League isn't all that different from the PSL," he said.

"Some of the PSL soccer we've seen on

television hasn't been so brilliant as to pale State League matches into insignificance.

"And I think there is potentially a lot of entertainment value in the State League," he said.

AVALA



"I'm not really happy with the way the season has started for us," said Avala's coach, Kaz Kulak.

"Firstly, we have been losing games, and that never pleases me.

"But also, the team has only occasionally shown its true potential," Kaz said.

He said he had expected some problems with the new players settling into the team.

"You always get the inevitable settling down problems, but we have struck more than usual.

"Our whole defence has practically been rebuilt," Kaz said.

"I've got three new men in the backline: Sharfegger, Lembryk and Fairclough and it takes time for them to get to know each other's style of play.

"Also, we've been hit with injuries to key players, like Bruce Tilt and Branko Karantilovski, severely hampering our attacking abilities," he said.

"As for the rest of the League, I think it will be a one horse race.

"I've seen most of the State League teams and no-one compares with St. George.

"They are a machine — and they will easily dominate the league.

"It is up to the top teams to push ahead, otherwise the teams like Manly, Polonia and Riverwood will overtake them in time," Kaz said.

AUBURN

"We are a little disappointed with the way the team has started the year," said Auburn's Fred Parker.

"We've played well in patches and had a lot of goalscoring opportunities.

"But we just don't seem able to score goals.

"It's not just a problem of the strikers, but the whole team.

"There seems to be a little spirit missing," Fred said.

"But, after all, we've only had six rounds, and we are hoping that there will be an improvement," Fred added.

"As for the State League the thing that

has hit me in the first part of the year is the lack of mass media coverage.

"I think Channel O should be congratulated for their efforts to give some exposure to the State League.

"There have been some entertaining matches in the State League and I think too many people underestimate the potential of the League," Fred said.

NORTH SYDNEY

"It hasn't been exactly the best of ways to start the season, has it?" said a North Sydney spokesman.

"One win from five games," he said.

But the losses have been very hard fought, narrow ones.

"Perhaps that's even more heart breaking.

"To be so near and yet losing to silly goals and against teams whom we have outplayed," he said.

"We are convinced, however, that the talent is still there in the team and it is only a matter of getting the players to be confident before we will start returning to the winning streak," he added.

"The State League is under a shadow at present: St. George.

"They will dominate this year so much that I can see them easily getting over 100 goals.

"I think the addition of the relegated PSL sides — first Olympic and now Saints — is providing the State League teams with the ultimate test of fire.

"You just can't help but learn from the matches — just from watching them.

"And teams like Croatia and Melita have strengthened themselves since last year, while Polonia are dark horses, with their four new Poles," he said.

"It's going to be very tough," he added.

CROATIA



"We are very pleased with the way things are going," said Croatia's Tony Topic.

"Our side has settled down very well and is playing a good brand of attacking soccer that is getting us goals and good results.

"After all, we are undefeated in our five matches.

"We were determined to rebuild the side this year to make it a team worthy of taking the State League championship and eventually getting PSL status.

"I think we are well on the way to doing that," he said.

"Everything is going to plan and we are gradually building up our crowds again after a bit of a let-down last season.

"The State League is proving a hard competition.

"We have won our

made to fight for the points.

"We won narrowly against Avala and Sutherland with goals towards the end, and Manly gave us a fright before we overcame them.

"I think those results show that there are no longer many easy matches in the League," he said.

MONARO



"Our performances so far are up to what we'd expected," said Monaro's Joe Chiera.

"We are fairly happy with our position on the table, though we are still irked by our loss to Sutherland which we feel we should have escaped," he said.

"Most of our results have been pleasing; seven points from our last four games is a good record.

"Of course we realise we haven't played Croatia, Melita or St. George but still, picking up points is what counts and we've started to get into the habit," Joe said.

"The State League is starting to level out in standards I feel," he said.

"The teams which finished out of the top four last year are all gradually getting closer together.

"That's why each week there are some 'surprise' results.

"Things have become tighter: the bottom clubs are using better tactics and have fitter players to counter the more established clubs who have become convinced they won't ever be threatened by relegation.

"But the way things stand now, there could be a few shocks before the end of the year," Joe said.

BANKSTOWN

"We haven't played badly, but we've had some disheartening losses," said Bankstown's Jim Giffin.

"I think we realised it would be hard this year.

"We lost a few of our experienced players and we've been bleeding youngsters in their place," he said.

"That wouldn't be so bad, but we've been hit with injuries which has meant the side has remained unsettled week after week.

"We are pleased, however, with the effort of the boys.

"There hasn't been one match in which they didn't give 100 percent, and I don't think one can ask for more," Jim said.

"How do we see the year so far? I think we've provided ourselves with the basis of a good side and we've unearthed some new talent.

"Of course, the results haven't been what we expected, but with hard

work I think we can start to put some more goals on the board and start to get somewhere," Jim said.

"The State League itself is a tough competition," he said.

"There has been a great evening out of talent in the other sides and it will be the team that fails to settle down quickly that will find itself in division one next year," he said.

RIVERWOOD

"I'm very pleased with the way things have gone so far for us," said Riverwood's coach Atti Abonyl.

"Everything is going to plan and we are starting to play well and get results.

"We had a very shaky start, but I was expecting that.

"I saw that with three new coaches in all grades, with six new players and with the exodus of several of last year's team the side would take a lot of work to get ready for the season.

"We started training earlier in the year than usual, but still I felt we would have problems — and we did.

"The trouble was that some people expected too much from the team: the pressure on the players increased, and then we played against several of the best teams in the League.

"The losses just increased the depression. But we have forced our way out through hard work and discipline," Atti said.

"The State League as a whole is improving," Atti said.

"At the top there will be the two main challengers — St. George and Croatia, with Melita behind them.

"Their improvement in standard makes the whole League hard," Atti said.

POLONIA



"We are pleased with the year so far," said Polonia's PR man Gerry Charbowski.

"We started out in our first year after promotion, determined just to get settled into the competition.

"But we gradually realised that we had a good team that had played together as a unit and was capable of doing things in the State League.

"Our results so far have been generally good — if we forget the St. George match and we wish we could!

"The new Polish players have performed well, so far, and they still have yet to produce their true potential," Gerry said.

"The State League is a

"The so-called 'shock' reverses each week prove that the competition is evening out.

"Teams can win well one week and lose just as badly the next.

"Only the top teams continue to get consistent results.

"What we are aiming at is consistency," Gerry said.

CANTERBURY

"I am not very pleased with the way the team has played in the first six rounds," said Canterbury's coach John Xipolitis.

"When we started the season we thought we had a good chance to do well.

"During the pre-season trial games the team played exceptionally well.

"We won seven of our eight games, including a match against Sydney Olympians, and it seemed as if the seven new faces were blending together.

"But we realise now that they were trying much harder than they are now.

"I will have to be ruthless from now on and only the triers will be retained," John added.

"The State League is getting tougher than it was last year.

"Then we had Olympic and Melita as the two top teams.

"Now Croatia has improved, Sutherland are a strong side, Polonia are improvers and Melita have strengthened their unit.

"The rest of the teams have also levelled out and so I don't expect too many easy games this year for anyone — except possibly St. George," he said.

PARRAMATTA

"We knew it would be hard, but we weren't expecting it to be this rough," said Parramatta official.

"The side has been hit with injuries — but I still think we expected more from the team.

"We are disappointed with the results so far.

"Some of the matches have seen the side play to its true potential and we have provided good value.

"But against Melita everything went wrong.

"We know we have some good players and we are just hoping they will start to regularly produce the goods," he said.

"I see the State League gradually separating into two areas.

"I expect that the top of the league will separate itself from the rest of the field by about the halfway mark.

"The bottom section will then be left to fight out the relegation battle.

"That's a negative way of looking at it, but there will be about 10 teams of relatively equal strength any of which could go down.

"The League has become such a dog-fight that all you need is two bad results and three or four teams can leap over you.

"Points will be hard to come by, with St. George, Croatia and Melita on the prowl," he added.

SUTHERLAND

"Things could be better we admit, but the side is starting to shape up rather nicely," said a Sutherland spokesman.

"We've got an average of one point from each game," he added.

"That's just passable, but we would have liked to have seen a few more points.

"We should never have lost the game against Croatia, where a draw would have been a fairer result.

"But it's been good to see the emergence of so many younger players in the side.

"The Bush brothers, Cashman, Donnelly, Webber and Murphy have all been products of the Sutherland area.

"They are now welding themselves into a good team under John Watkiss' guidance.

"We are confident the team can do well this year," he said.

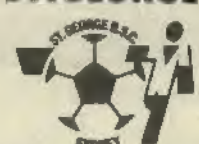
"As for the State League itself, I think too many people are eager to write it off as a non-event.

"The top teams like St. George, Melita, Croatia, Sutherland and Polonia can and do play entertaining stuff and that's what the people want.

"But we've got to get it across to the people.

"It's going to be a tough year, but an entertaining one," he said.

ST. GEORGE



"I'm surprised with our results so far," said St. George manager Frank Arok.

"They have been much better than I expected.

"But even so, I still feel there are things which can be improved.

"We have had too many lapses: quite often it takes us 10 or 15 minutes to get going," Frank said.

"My aim is to make the side a strong combination, capable of taking on any side in the Philips League.

"Our aim is to get back into the PSL and we are open about it.

"But we are not yet the great team everyone is calling us.

"I see room for improvement in many areas," Frank added.

"The rest of the State League is pretty much up to last year's standard.

"The team that wins the State League must beat Croatia and Melita.

"The other teams will pick up and drop points fairly regularly.

"But those two look to be the most capable challengers apart from St. George.

"The Ampol Cup provided some good matches and I don't think the standard at the top is as bad as some people would like to make out," Frank said.

CLUB PATROL

St. George coach Frank Arok's father-in-law died after a long illness in Novisad, Yugoslavia.



Frank Arok

Canterbury's coach JOHN XIPOLITAS after his team's 9-1 loss to St. George: "I still feel the sending off of McPherson was the turning point. It was only 3-1 to St. George at that stage. We should never have conceded those further six goals. I agree McPherson acted hastily, but I also think referee Tim Davies also overreacted in sending the player off when we had already used both our substitutes."

Melita will play their first home match this year at EVERLY PARK against Manly. The official opening, however, won't be until the match against Croatia in the second round of the competition.

Auburn have placed JOHN MCCRANOR on the transfer list for \$1,200.

Auburn have signed two players in recent

weeks. DAVID POLZOT has joined them from Marconi and BOB ALLEN has been signed up from amateur club Postale FC in Birmingham England.

Auburn's CHRIS QUIGLEY will see a specialist this week after he suffered an injury to his shin last Sunday against Bankstown. He had to be replaced after only 20 minutes of the first half after a collision with a Bankstown player.



George Harris

St. George will have a great psychological plus over Croatia now, after Croatia's match against North Sydney was washed out last weekend.

The Saints lead the points table with six straight wins and a massive 34 goals from their matches and it will be up to Croatia to 'catch' them.

Last week we said the Saints could easily get 100 goals this year, but as one observer pointed out, it could now be a question of them scoring 200!

Certainly last week's result against Canterbury caused consternation in the Parramatta camp.

They have just recovered from one hiding at the hands of Melita and now face the daunting task of stopping Arok's marauders.

Saints depth of talent alone is awesome: substitute Ernie Campbell got a hat-trick last week after coming on in the second half, while Villi Kanacki is rated by many observers to be one of the best players in Australia at present, yet he cannot force a regular team spot!

Parramatta had a break last week and should have cleared up injury problems, but they will need to improve dramatically on their showing against Canterbury two weeks ago to do any harm to St. George.

We tip a modest 4-0 win to the Saints.

Croatia have tough opponents in Auburn this Sunday at King Tomislav.

Croatia had a free weekend last Sunday and will be hoping that 'corks' Peter Hensman and Alex Kovacic can shake off their injuries by this weekend.

Auburn struggled to a draw in the mud last week and seem to have lost a little of their shine since the season started.

A Croatia win looks the likely result though a draw wouldn't surprise.

We tip Croatia 1-0.

Riverwood are starting to play as a unit at last and coach Atli Abonyi's persistence and refusal to panic seem to be paying dividends.

He has forged the team together with patience and they are playing some neat football.

Norths are a niggly side and should provide stiff opposition.

But we feel Abonyi should be able to get Riverwood sufficiently motivated to pull through.

We tip a Riverwood win 2-1.

Melita are hitting their straps after a shaky period in the Ampol Cup at the start of the year and are shaping up as worthy title defenders.

Don Allan and Hector Martinez form a great front line, while Ray Farrugia and John Stoddart provide one of the best midfields in the League.

Manly have lost some of their steam since the season started and have disappointed those who thought they would be achievers at last.

We think Manly will push the Eagles all the way, but Melita should win out with a 2-0 result.

Sutherland entertain Avala at Seymour Shaw on Sunday.

Avala fought in the slosh last week against Melita and went down: their style of soccer doesn't suit heavy grounds.

They will be out to get points, as will the Sharks.

Both sides have had inconsistent games recently and both John Walkies and Kaz Kulak will want to get their sides playing up to scratch again.

We see a draw 2-2 as the most likely result.

Bankstown and Polonia play at the Soccer Centre.

Polonia should win here as they have a better balanced side that has been doing quite well so far.

Bankstown's rhythm has been upset admittedly by injuries and this could again be their downfall.

Polonia to win 2-0.

Monaro will entertain the shell-shocked Canterbury at Marco Polo. In Queenbeyan this weekend.

Canterbury officials and fans will be hoping that coach John Xipolitas can motivate the players after last week's earthquake.

Monaro haven't lost for four weeks: three wins and a draw have taken them into the top four and they should keep up the good record.

Canterbury are plagued by injuries and inconsistent form.

We tip Monaro to win 2-1.

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE

St. George fans feared the worst when their side went 1-0 down against Canterbury at halftime yesterday: the first loss they have been pessimistically calling 'inevitable' appeared on hand.

But Saints' Svengali-like manager Frank Arok had other ideas and sent his side onto the field for the second half like men possessed! They scored nine goals and the result sent cold shivers down the spines of most opposing coaches in the State League.

Canterbury had pinned down the Saints in the first half with good defensive and midfield work.

Nothing went right for the Saints and an 18th minute goal by Ross Brown gave Canterbury a well deserved lead.

But in the second half the superior teamwork of St. George took control and they came back through striker Dez Marton and Ernie Campbell and midfielders John Davies and Mark Barton.

Marton netted four goals, while Campbell, coming on as a substitute for Barry Walker, completed his hat-trick in the last half an hour.

Canterbury were severely handicapped when goalkeeper Alex McPherson was sent off by referee Tim Davies for alleged "very foul and abusive language".

The score was 3-1 at that stage and as both substitutes had been used, Ross Brown had to go into goal.

Canterbury lost heart and as the match wore on the defence became increasingly unsteady, which showed in the final scoreline.

Melita's goals against Avala also came in the second half of a match which was delayed for 20 minutes by an almighty downpour at Knight Park.

While the rest of Sydney basked in pleasant sunshine, the rainclouds visited the Western Suburbs ground and unleashed a torrential downpour which forced referee Doug Rennie to examine the pitch several times before he would allow the game to go on.

The match proved surprisingly good and skilful despite the heavy conditions, and it took Melita 55 minutes to break through Avala's defence when midfielder Ray Farrugia fired home a great shot from the edge of the area.

He repeated the act in the 63rd and then Don Allan scored with a header to make it 3-0.

Two goals: one from striker Billy Bulloch in the

first half and another from midfielder Wally Savor were enough to give Riverwood two points against a Manly side that had more of the run of play.

Riverwood's recent signing, former Soccer George Harris, was taken off in the 25th minute with a broken ankle after falling awkwardly.

Manly were full of running and pressed Riverwood, but Riverwood had enough guile to hold the eager Seasiders and snatch two vital points.

Monaro scored a first half goal through striker Ian Heywood, but the determined Polonia fought back with a goal from Bob Wiszniewski to get a draw in the Chopin Park clash.



Croatia's talented midfielder Marijan Kovacic

POLONIA v INTER MONARO 1-1 (5-1)

POLONIA: Kalnowski, Harris, Maitre, Galas, Zounis, Garlowski, Budini, Wiszniewski, Lemanczyk, Szobczyk, Jirsa (McNally 59m). MONARO: Caputo, Crawford, Charles, Noble, Santolin, Falzon, Arquerio, Francis, Link, Valeri, Heywood. Goals: 0-1 Heywood (34m), 1-1 Wiszniewski (61m). Referee: H. Witschge; Crowd: 250.

MANLY v RIVERWOOD 0-2 (0-1)

MANLY: Dower, Geohagan, Doyle, Kramer, Riley, K. Falconer, Stuart (Kelly 77m), P. Falconer, Reagan, Jack, Fox. RIVERWOOD: Gisbourne, Butcher, Harris (Martin 25m), Wignall, Miles, Lee, Tracey, Savor, Landon, Bulloch, Fisher. Goals: 0-1 Bulloch (35m), 0-2 Savor (55m). Referee: G. Warne; Crowd: 350.

AVALA v MELITA 0-3 (0-0)

AVALA: Wotton, Lembray, Scharfegger, Pilovski, Fairclough, Nitya, Rodic, Ruiz, Samuels, Matthew, Karanfilovski (Kodor 63m). MELITA: Graedy, Thompson, McCoy, Daley, Campbell, McPherson, Farrugia, Stoddart, Allan, Berry, Martinez (Ross 75m). Goals: 0-1 Farrugia (55m), 0-2 Farrugia (63m), 0-3 Allan (81m). Referee: D. Rennie; Crowd: 1,200.

CANTERBURY v ST. GEORGE 1-9 (1-0)

CANTERBURY: McPherson (sent off), Anagnostopoulos (Lane 35m), replaced by Georgiou 60m), Laws, Karaspiros, Buchan, Basterfield, Bourke, Williams, Brown, Themididis, Andriou. ST. GEORGE: Fraser, Duarte (Kanacki 48m), Rylands, McDonald, Terry, Barton, Davies, Stone, Griffiths, Marton, Walker, (Campbell 60m). Goals: 1-0 Brown (18m), 1-1 Marton (49m), 1-2 Barton (55m), 1-3 Marton (71m), 1-4 Marton (74m), 1-5 (Campbell 77m), 1-6 Davies (81m), 1-7 Campbell (83m), 1-8 Campbell (88m), 1-9 Marton (89m). Referee: T. Davies; Crowd: 2,000.

AUBURN v BANKSTOWN 2-0 (1-0)

AUBURN: Bowman, McInerney, Prgomelja, Bielby, McDonald, Bertram, Thiering, Quigley (Bates 20m), Leak, Hoysted, Brown. BANKSTOWN: Lachowicz, Beveridge, Rootsey, Usher, Amies, Peck, Swatridge (Finch 80m), Glen Lynch, Farthing, Gilligan, Beater. Goals: 1-0 Brown (14m), 2-0 Leak (72m). Referee: W. King; crowd: 150.

EURO CUPS

The first legs of the three Euro-Cup semifinals will be played this week (Thursday morning Australian time.)

The pairings: Champions' Cup: Liverpool v Bayern Real Madrid v Inter Milan Cupwinners' Cup: Dinamo Tbilisi v Feyenord Jena v Benfica

UEFA Cup: Sochaux v AZ Alkmaar Ipswich v FC Köln

At 5.15am on Thursday, Radio 2EA of Sydney will give a direct, English language broadcast from the Liverpool-Bayern match.



Avala's BRUCE TILT could be out of action for some months because of his nagging knee injury. Avala coach KAZ KULAK says Bruce has seen several doctors, each of whom has given a different diagnosis.

Melita's president EMMANUEL SAID on the conditions before the Avala match: "We didn't even think it could be raining on the day of the match. When we left home for the game it was a bright, humid day. But when we got to Knight Park it was pouring down. I don't go that far out of Sydney for my holidays."

Bankstown's JOHN NOCERA last Friday evening was involved in a car accident and had 24 stitches inserted in two large cuts on his forehead and chin. John will be out of action for a few weeks because of the injuries.

EMERGENCY

It is ridiculous that soccer in Sydney still has no emergency telephone.

After some 25 years of semi-professional, professional, quasi-professional and pseudo-professional administrations...

Whenever it rains on the weekend and there is doubt about matches being played, confusion sets in.

There is no central telephone number people can ring and find out if their match is on or off.

The ASF, PSL and NSW Federation offices

are closed, so people ring us.

We wouldn't mind answering their queries — but often we don't know ourselves until the last moment.

Surely the three soccer administrations in Sydney could combine and arrange to have a phone number listed which gives out recorded information about cancelled matches.

Or perhaps we should publish the private phone numbers of a few presidents and secretaries so they can handle this usual Sunday morning telephone traffic.

FIRST DIVISION

— By Charles Spiteri

Competition leaders Kurlingai lost their unbeaten record this season in one of only two games played at the weekend.

They went down 1-0 against the unpredictable Bathurst at Parklands Oval.

Wet weather played havoc with this competition round and the only other game played ended in a 1-1 draw between Penrith and Warringah.

Weather permitting, Kurlingai face another tough assignment when they meet Revesby Workers at Milperra.

Highlights of the two games played were:

KU-RING-GAI v BATHURST 0-1

Bathurst bounced back into the battle for promotion when they beat leaders Kurlingai with the only goal of the match.

The goal came from a freekick in the 4th minute and once they hit the front they did everything to stay there.

Kurlingai came back strongly particularly after the interval hitting the post twice but the equaliser eluded them.

Kurlingai: Taylor, Haines, Gross, Jagger, Robertson, Ross, Williamson, Geekie (Slade), Seach, Endacott, Smith. Coach: H. Noon.

Bathurst: Lovett, Woodruff, D. Pickup, Ashleford, Waine, Tait, P. Hadley, Alexander, Dwyer, A. Pickup, G. Hadley. Coach: J. Judge.

PENRITH v WARRINGAH 1-1

Penrith improving with every game have turned on a good performance but were let down badly by poor finishing.

Also an improved team this year, Warringah tried hard and were the ones who took the lead with a good goal by Walsh.

However, this lead was short lived when Steve Hammill hammered the equaliser only two minutes later.

Penrith: Kristic, Rhodes, Dunn, Hobart, May, Smith (Hood), Lewis, Demattia, Anderson, Thoms, Hammill. Coach: S. Ackerley.

Warringah: Cimentl, Duncan, Friend, Collings, Morris, Euers, Ainslie, Sturgess, Sandtner, Walsh, Beverley. Coach: A. Ainslie.

FREE TRANSFER PLAYERS FROM BRITAIN

Good to top class British League players, all keen to migrate to Australia, are available. All their credentials checked, background material and medical clearance provided. The players are contracted to SOCCER PROMOTIONS. Most have qualifications outside soccer and are keen to work.

At present, we have 138 players on our books. These include:

John Bond	20	Swindon Town
Harold Bingham	22	Morton
Paul Jackson	23	London City (Canada)
Tony Jones	23	Swindon Town
Stephen Harding	24	Bristol Rovers
Stephen Hester	23	Swindon Town
Ashley Griffiths	20	Bristol Rovers
Linsey Kudd	27	Arbroath
Stephen Kelly	21	Exeter City
Lawrence Langdon	24	Bromley (Southern League)
James McDonagh	23	Airdrie
Les McLaughham	20	Morton
Peter McGuinness	19	Everton
Thomas Brown	20	Clyde
Jimmy Redfern	27	Philadelphia, USA
Tony Dunn	21	Mausfield
Tony Pulis	23	Bristol Rovers
Stuart Metcalfe	30	Carlisle Utd.
Pat Sharkey	27	Peterboro
John Kelly	26	Walsall
Terry Dark	20	Birmingham
Martin Shaw	20	Bristol Rovers
Michael Webber	23	Chicago Sting
Bobby Stokes	28	Washington Diplomats

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AMPOL CUP

The Ampol Cup's penultimate round sees Sutherland as the 'unlucky' ones who face St. George, while Croatia and Polonia will do battle in the semifinal.

Sutherland's eager youngsters should be tough opponents for St. George.

They are fit and well drilled, but their one failing this year has been the lack of a punchy forward line.

Saints seem to have everything: an unstoppable attack, a dynamic midfield and a confident defence — plus Frank Arok.

Judging on recent results it would be impossible to go past St. George for a win here. But we feel Sutherland will keep the score down. We tip St. George 2-0.

Polonia and Croatia should provide an entertaining clash.

Polonia are performing well in their first year up, and are riding high.

Their quarterfinal win against Canterbury was a thrill-a-minute stuff and against Croatia the style should be the same.

Croatia should benefit from a rest last weekend and can be expected to go flat out.

With a tricky forward line they should be hard to handle.

We tip a Croatia win 2-1.

— Paul James



AUSTRALIAN YOUTH LEAGUE SUNDAY

AIS v Leichhardt, 12.45, Bruce Stadium
Newcastle v Canberra, 12.45, Int. Sports Centre
Sydney City v Wollongong, 12.45, Gabbie Stadium
Olympic v Marconi, 12.45, Pratten Park

Youth League results:

Leichhardt v Wollongong 4-0
Canberra v Olympic 1-1
AIS v Newcastle 3-3
Sydney City v Blacktown (postponed)

NSW

TABLES

NSW FEDERATION SCHEDULE

DIVISION 2
Mt. Drift Town v Lane Cove, Sat., Popondetta Park; Baulkham Hills v Marriakville Rockdale, Sun., Ted Horwood Res.; Liverpool Albion v Queens Park E/S, Sun., Stanwell Oval; Dee Why v Campbelltown City, Sat., Dee Why Oval; Bonnyrigg v Riverstone Schofields, Sun., St. John's Park; Nth. Ryde v Gladesville Hornsby, Sun., Nth. Ryde Oval.

DIVISION 3
Port Hacking v Kingsford, Sat., Seymour Shaw Park; Artarmon v Fairfield Kiv., Sat., Artarmon Reserve; Wentworth Waratahs v Sydney Uni, Sun., Centenary Park; Padstow Park v Eastern Creek, Sun., Walshaw Park; Paddington v Hurstville-Zagreb, Sun., Campbell Park; Bondi Marine v West Ryde Rivers, Sat., Wentworth Oval.

DIVISION 4
Fairfield West v Eastwood S/A, Sun., Parkes Reserve; Chelsea v Winston Hills, Sat., Moore Park No.12; Canley Heights v West St. George, Sun., King Park; Revesby v West Holroyd G/C, Sun., Armour Park; North Rocks v Concordia, Sun., Murray Farm Reserve; Ryde District v Maroubra Utd., Sat., E.L.S. Hall Park.

DIVISION 5
Camden v Macquarie Uni., Sat., Ponderosa Park; Haberfield B/D's v Green Valley, Sun., Beaman Park; Edensor Park v Moorebank, Sat., King Tomislav Park; Chullora v Auburn Juniors, Sat., Jansen Park; Hawkesbury Dist. v Glenquarie Utd., Sun., Nth. Richmond Oval; Sydney Maccabi v Pagewood, Sat., Syd. Athletic Field.

DIVISION 6
Rangers Hajduk v Tasandinos Sports, Sat., Lot 3 Edensor Rd.; St. John's Park Blacktown Wanderers v Bankstown Sports, Sun., Grantham H/School; Robins v Liverpool Utd., Sun., Pacifilio Oval; Liverpool City v Colo-Colo, Sun., Ernie Smith Reserve; Liverpool Rangers v St. Sydney, Sun., Ireland Park; Halias Sports v Blacktown Workers, Sun., Eric Primrose Reserve.

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
GRADE 1					
St. George	8	—	34	3	12
Melita	5	—	1	22	4
Croatia	5	—	12	4	10
Monaro	3	1	2	8	7
Polonia	3	1	2	8	7
Auburn	3	—	3	5	10
Sutherland	2	1	2	4	5
Riverwood	2	1	3	8	12
Avala	2	—	4	8	14
Canterbury	2	—	4	8	15
Manly	2	—	4	7	14
N. Sydney	1	—	4	5	9
Bankstown	1	—	5	4	12
P. Marita	1	—	4	4	16

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
GRADE 2					
St. George	6	—	26	1	12
Riverwood	4	1	1	8	4
Canterbury	4	—	2	14	5
Melita	4	—	2	16	8
Croatia	4	—	1	11	7
Sutherland	2	2	1	10	7
N. Sydney	3	—	2	8	11
Polonia	2	1	3	5	10
Bankstown	1	2	2	8	4
Manly	1	1	4	7	7
P. Marita	1	1	3	3	14
Auburn	—	2	3	—	2
Avala	1	—	5	4	15
Monaro	1	—	5	4	18

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
GRADE 3					
Melita	4	2	—	16	7
Auburn	4	—	—	13	—
Manly	4	—	—	12	—
Polonia	3	1	1	9	4
Riverwood	2	1	2	12	9
Bankstown	2	1	2	11	9
Sutherland	2	1	2	8	7
Canterbury	2	1	3	10	14
St. George	2	—	4	10	9
Croatia	1	2	2	10	15
P. Marita	1	—	4	4	17
Avala	—	1	4	3	17
N. Sydney	—	—	4	—	—

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
DIVISION 1					
GRADE 1					
Kurlingal	4	1	1	6	2
Fry Mdw.	3	1	1	13	6
Woll. Utd.	3	1	1	9	4
Bathurst	3	1	2	10	11
Guildford	2	2	1	5	3
Penrith	2	2	2	6	6
Blacktown	2	1	2	8	4
Yugai	2	1	2	5	9
Gladesville	2	1	2	5	6
Nth. Bankst.	2	—	3	6	7
Warrington	1	2	3	9	11
Belmore	—	4	1	3	7
Uni NSW	1	1	3	6	9
Revesby	1	1	3	5	12

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
GRADE 2					
Kurlingal	5	1	—	13	1
Fry Mdw.	5	—	—	19	3
Gladesville	3	2	—	7	3
Yugai	2	2	1	8	4
Bl'town	3	—	2	9	6
Revesby	3	—	2	8	6
Woll. Utd.	3	—	3	10	13
Belmore	2	1	2	6	5
Penrith	2	1	3	6	8
Guildford	1	2	2	5	9
N. Banks.	1	2	2	5	11
Warrington	—	3	3	5	8
Uni NSW	1	—	5	6	18
Bathurst	—	—	8	3	24

NSW COCA-COLA BOTTLERS LEAGUE					
GRADE 3					
Kurlingal	6	—	—	19	5
Fry Mdw.	5	—	—	16	4
Woll. Utd.	4	—	2	16	9
Guildford	4	—	1	10	5
Belmore	3	1	1	13	7
Revesby	3	—	2	15	9
Gladesville	2	2	1	9	7
N. Banks.	2	1	2	5	8
Penrith	1	2	2	5	9
Warrington	1	1	3	5	17
Yugai	1	—	4	12	11
Bathurst	1	—	5	5	11
Uni NSW	—	1	5	3	22
Blacktown	—	—	5	4	14

As the majority of matches in Divisions 2 to 6 were cancelled, we will publish their tables as of next week.



"Who's going to tell him that he's just scored an own-goal?"



LAST WEEK'S RESULTS COCA-COLA BOTTLERS' STATE LEAGUE

Manly v Riverwood	0-2	0-2	—
Avala v Melita	0-3	1-3	0-4
Auburn v Bankst.	2-0	—	—
Can't bry v St. Geo.	1-9	1-3	3-2
Polonia v Monaro	1-1	2-0	—

Division 1					
Penrith v Warr'gah	1-1	1-0	—		
Kurlingal v B'thurst	0-1	3-0	3-0		
Uni NSW v W'gong	—	5-2	0-4		
Division 2					
G/Horns v B'rigg	1-2	0-3	7-1		
M'ville v Nth. Ryde	2-0	0-4	4-0		

Division 3					
C'cordia v F'esby	2-0	0-0			
M'roubra v N. Rock	2-3	2-1			
W. Ryde v P'dington	2-1	1-3			

Division 4					
E'wood v Chelsea	0-1	3-0			
Winst. H. v Ryde	3-0	4-1			

Division 5					
P'wood v Hawksb.	2-1	0-1			
Mac. Uni v H'field	1-3	1-0			

Division 6					
T'dinos v B'f'n W.	2-0	2-1			
S. Syd. v L'pool C.	1-4	1-4			
Bl'town Workers v Liverpool Rangers	1-2	2-1			

SAINTS ON SATURDAY

St. George have changed their match date for the Monaro game.

Instead of Easter Sunday, April 19, they will play on Saturday, at Barton Park.

The Saints acceded to Monaro's request to bring the match forward because of Monaro's annual general meeting on Sunday.

MADDEN IS 'TOWN COACH

North Bankstown's first grade coach is Dennis Madden, son of former State player Bob Madden.

Dennis' brothers Ian (goalkeeper) and Craig (midfielder) are regular first grade players.

Dennis has coached the side for the past two seasons during which they have been promoted firstly from third to second division and this year to first division.

Manager is Kevin Johnston who is also President of North Bankstown Soccer Club.

Second grade coach is Mark Carney, who last year coached the club's premiership winning third grade side. Manager is Laurie Dawson.

Third grade coach is Mick Hayes, who last year coached the second grade side. Manager is Terry Mawer.

John Hughes, formerly with Yagoona, has been appointed as trainer of the squad and is also a regular member of the second grade side.

Major signings this year are Barry Willeman and Norm Boardman, both formerly with the now defunct Yagoona club.

Major losses have been Ken Thorpe and Peter Thompson, both retired, and Gary Rudd who has moved to the Newcastle area to start his own business.

The majority of other players from last year's first grade side have been retained.

Several of last year's champion third grade squad — namely Robert Thompson, Craig Wright and Tony Ross — are regular members of the first grade squad.

NSW YOUTH LEAGUE

Group 1

Gl'ville/Hornsby v Melita, Sat., Pioneer Bankstown v Syd. Olympic, Sat., Pratten Park
St. George v Polonia, Sat., Peakhurst
Bl'town City v Illawarra, Sat., Balgownie
Croatia v Stn. & Eastern, Sat., St. Johns
Baulkham Hills v Leichhardt, Sat., Lambert

Group 2

Nepean v Manly, Sat., Cromer
Riverwood v Canterbury, Sat., Arlington
Kurlingal v Sutherland, Sat., Bates Drive
Marconi v Central Coast, Sat., Fagan
Avala v Stn. District, Sat., Knight
Bl'town Assoc. Bye

LAST WEEK

Group 1	14s	15s	16s
Glad/Hornsby v Olympic	2-4	5-0	2-2
Bankstown v Polonia	postponed		
St. George v Illawarra	2-3	4-0	2-0
Blacktown v Leichhardt	postponed		
Croatia v Melita	postponed		
Stn. & East. v Baulkham Hills	3-1	2-3	2-1

Group 2

Nepean v Canterbury	postponed		
Riverwood v Sutherland	0-1	0-3	0-2
Kurlingal v Marconi	postponed		
Avala v Manly	postponed		
Stn. Dist. v Blacktown Ass.	postponed		

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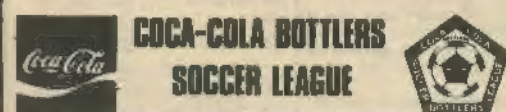
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AMPOL CUP

Semifinals

Wednesday, April 8
St. George v Sutherland 6.45pm
Croatia v Polonia 8.30pm
(At St. George Stadium)



THIS WEEK

Croatia v Auburn, Sun., King Tomislav 99
Riverwood v N.S. Inter, Sun., Hurstville Ov. 35B/5
Melita v Manly Warr. Sun., Everyley Prk. 49H/9
Sutherland v Avala, Sun., Seymour Shaw 93H/14
Bankstown v Polonia, Sun., Soccer Centre 54J/12
Monaro v Canterbury, Sun., Marco Polo (Q'byn)
Parramatta v St. Geo., Sun., Garraide Prk. 47G/9

DIVISION ONE

Bathurst v SSC Yugai, Sun., 2BOD, Bathurst
Revesby v Kurlingal, Sun., Milperra Res. 55F/3
Fairly Meadow v Belmore, Sat., Police Boys, Woll.
Wollongong v Nth. Bankst., Sun., Berkeley Spts.
Blacktown v Penrith, Sat., Francis Prk. 117G/9
Warrington v Gl'ville, Sun., Graham Res. 77H/12
Uni NSW v Guildford, Sun., David Phillips 24J/4

NEXT WEEK

Polonia v Croatia, Sun., Chopin Park 115H/4
Riverwood v Auburn, Sat., Hurstville 35B/5
N.S. Inter v Melita, Sun., Lambert Prk. 28B/7
Manly/Warr. v Sutherland, Sun., Cromer 79G/10
Avala v Parramatta, Sun., Knight Prk. 52F/9
Canterbury v Bankstown, Sun., Arlington 27K/13
St. George v Inter Monaro, Sat., St. George 34H/14

Division 1

Penrith v Bathurst, Sun., Cook Park. 114D/12
SSC Yugai v Revesby, Sun., Concord 30J/3
Kurlingal v Fry Mdw. Sat., Parklands Oval 110F/7
Wollongong v Belmore, Sun., Berkeley (Woll.)
Nth. Bankstown v Uni NSW, Sun., Potts Prk 50H/15
Gl'ville Rav. v Blacktown, Sun., Peel Prk. 40K/4
Guildford v Warrington, Sun., Guildford Prk 52J/2

All games at 3pm, unless otherwise stated. The letters and numbers after the venues are Gregory Road Map references.

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ANZAC DAY BATTLE

Having dealt with the defenders and mid-fielders, now we look at the likely strikers of the Socceroos for the Auckland match and beyond. At this stage, not even Rudi Gutendorf would know which men will be his choices. And his problems are compounded by severe losses of form — and even injuries.



John Kosmina, ignored all last year, came to Sydney City this season — and has made the Socceroo squad in one easy step. Still one of the most talented Australian attackers, Kosmina could get into the final team where his partnership with Boden would be a big asset.



Sebastian Giampaolo (above) is like Kosmina: he had to move to a Sydney club to be noticed. This highly skilled and innovative youngster is an absolute delight to watch when he plays well: flair, color and refined technique characterise his game. His best position is on the left wing from where he likes to wriggle his way into the goalmouth.



Joe Watson (left) has been around for several seasons with Sydney City and only came to Gutendorf's close attention recently. He could play the withdrawn, scheming right winger role well: there are few better passers of the ball in Australian soccer than this diminutive but nuggety Scot. It would certainly make sense to opt for him — if Gutendorf also picks his team-mates Boden and Kosmina.



Peter Sharne rocketed to national fame and stardom last season — but in recent weeks his form has been disappointing. Still, his enormous speed and ability to pounce on long through-balls could make Gutendorf select him for one of the wing positions in Auckland while his team-mate, Marconi's "enfant terrible", Eddie Krncevic, now has a slim chance of making the team.



Canberra's Walter Valeri is yet another newcomer, having been grandly overlooked for two years. Now, because of the slump of the Marconi Musketeers, Valeri made the squad — only to drop out immediately because of a twisted ankle suffered last Sunday. Still, now that he has been noticed, his chance will come in later games.

PULCAR

the new direction



Big, bustling and brave — Heidelberg's Gary Cole was everybody's darling in 1980 but, like many others, has fallen on hard times. At his best Cole should be the logical man to lead the Australian attack — but his form has been anything but the best.

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FROM THE PRESS BOX

I am highly sceptical of promotional gimmicks. These, like dog acts in the circus, produce only a few guffaws but don't bring the house down.

And we have seen quite a range in recent years. Hakoah tried to lure crowds by giving spectators a few slices of salami; St George countered with perfume for women.

Western Suburbs then went further: at halftime they had greyhound races.

Marconi had karate and gymnastic exhibitions and the Saints produced a Captain Cook character, prouncing around the field idiotically.

Some thought of a helicopter arrival, others opted for skydivers. We've seen them all.

Only recently, Blacktown had their clubhouse chef kicking off the match; luckily, he is a better cook than comic.

But the old standbys are the marches past by juniors and the small groups of young semi-developed euphemistically called "marching girls."

Most marches past are — let's be frank about it — excruciatingly boring.

These tiny tots are paraded around the ground like captured seals, led by their proud managers: chest out, hair slicked down, walking with the pride of ringmasters.

While the parents around the ground watch their little darling in the parade, the non-involved spectators take the opportunity to go to the canteen or the loo (the two, by standard, being often interchangeable).

But the real king-hit comes with the "marching girls", who also double up as cheer squads.

These young ladies, in the early teens, "cheer" the home team on the field, waving some sad looking crepe paper.

Both the squad and the team lack any enthusiasm over the act; their embarrassment is surpassed only by those of the spectators.

Then at halftime, comes the climax: to the sound of some worn record, distorted by a primitive PA system, they "formation march," usually out of step, inately meandering between the two penalty boxes.

More refugees to the canteen and the loo. And all this under the name of "promotion."

SCANT INTEREST

All this sounds mean, destructive and negative; the simpletons, call it "knocking."

But they can't deny it's true. "Knocking" means harshly criticising something which is wonderful, uplifting, progressive and appealing.

Cheap gimmicks and tasteless "promotions" don't come into this category.

Many of our clubs keep up these nonsenses in the vain hope that they will attract extra spectators.

Well, let me doubt that. In most cases, even the participants — marching boys and girls and their parents — show scant interest in the actual soccer match for which they provide the trimmings.

WHO'S WATCHING?

This season I have made a point of watching these youngsters.

Understandably, the girls spend the time between their "appearances" giggling and fussing with their dresses, ribbons, hats and batons, usually surrounded by their mother hens — an idyllic picnic scene, a Gainsborough painting.

Much more depressing is the attitude of the young boys, members of the 433,000 strong junior Australian soccer force which, at every available opportunity, is being referred to as guarantees of our future.

As soon as their act is over, they scatter, usually into some remote areas to play chasing, to wrestle and to have their own fun.

The more alert of them crawl between your feet collecting tins and bottles for refunds or keep running back and forth between father and the sweetshop.

Not more than five out of 100 sit or stand and watch the game.

INVOLUNTARY

And this is where our soccer "atmosphere" is lacking.

Have a good look next time on your TV screen at those English kids at matches: hundreds of them, perhaps thousands, garbed in the club colors, waving banners and scarves, usually close to the barbed fence, noses poked through the hole — absorbed in the game.

They move together, like a phalanx, clap and chant in unison, cheeks pink with excitement, eyes popping out towards their idols on the field.

They are soccer fans; they go to the match. Our kids are taken.

And there is a very big difference.

If you are taken — dragged is often more accurate — you cannot be too enthusiastic.

The least you expect in return is some form of bribe: the licence to play up, roam around, collect empties or to lead a junior-sybaritic life on sweets and ice-cream for 90 minutes.

The English kids watch, follow and enjoy the game; ours endure it.

And, if you hear their occasional conversation, you will be duly shocked — it's about Rugby League teams.

They watch Marconi or Sydney City or Leichhardt — and talk about Parramatta and Penrith and Easts and Wests and their stars.

Can all these attitudes be changed?

Perhaps — but it's not easy. Maybe Junior Supporters Clubs could be tried, encouraging the kids to meet the players, either at the club or at their school.

Then they should be encouraged to watch the game together, in one group, rather than with their parents.

Those who don't play themselves should be invited to fun-film and meet-the-player afternoons by the clubs so that they build up some affinity.

How many clubs have produced attractive kits for youngsters about their team and players, with photos, emblems and perhaps some souvenirs like a T-shirt?

(Come to think of it, how many PSL clubs have produced any kit of any kind, even for the Press?)

I know it costs money but, in the long run, it would produce results, even a loyal following.

And it wouldn't cost more than one win bonus next Sunday for the first team.

QUITTING EARLY

What saddens me about the whole thing is that after all these years, we are still only talking about our soccer future — but doing very little about it.

Sure, we bandy around those 433,000 figures, mainly to impress the outsiders — but we don't boast with the fact that by the time these kids are 16, they have melted down to a very small trickle.

Take the Ku-ring-gai District Association. According to their last annual report, in 1980 they had 115 teams under 7 — but only 15 teams of under 16s.

So, assuming these six-year-olds follow the same pattern, only 13 percent of them will play when they are 16 years old.

If one day somebody had the time and resources to carry out a detailed survey, he could find that the majority of Australian youngsters "retire" from soccer between the ages of 14 and 16.

But even at senior level, it's very rare to see leading players — even internationals — stay in the game past the age of 26.

By that time, the game has simply run out of fascination for them: the clubs have failed to make them fans and at least spectators for life.

These are the deadly serious problems of our soccer which officialdom avoids like the plague because they are hard to solve.

These are the areas where we need smart planning and thinking — not in the field of cheap razamatraz and "match promotion."

If the ASF was serious about its role of developing the game instead of merely running a household, it would call into existence a carefully composed committee of inquiry and ask it to spend a year, more if necessary, to study the problem and produce some recommendations.

Without a very thorough planning, the kids of today will be lost to the game like the kids of yesterday were.

And all we'll have left is the march-past and the cheer squad as long as parental vanity can keep the kids at bay.

— Andrew Dettre

TAA fly the good sports.
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YUGAL FINDS SMART CITY HOME AT LAST



Yugal club president Milan Banovic (left) presenting NSW Premier Neville Wran with a wood etching after the official opening of the new Yugal club last Saturday.

After years of gradual decline towards obscurity and perhaps oblivion, Yugal has taken steps to regain its old grandeur.

Last Saturday, NSW Premier Neville Wran opened the smart new Yugal Soccer and Social Club premises in Quay Street, City — right opposite Her Majesty's Theatre.

Fully licensed, the Yugal club will be open six days a week (closed Mondays).

Initially the dining room will operate only for dinner but this may change eventually.

Some \$40,000 and a lot of free labour by the

members went into the rebuilding and redecorating of the two-storey building.

The club's president Milan Banovic, secretary Michael Benjamin and the directors now want to build up the club's membership strength.

It shouldn't be too hard: at \$15 a year, the membership fee is reasonable — and available to all nationalities, not just Yugoslavs.

The club is in a perfect position: three minutes walk from Central Station, half a block from Broadway, 50 metres from two huge parking stations and within easy

walking distance of the new Sydney Entertainment Centre at the Haymarket.

The gala opening night — attended by many friends of the Yugal club including Senator Tony Mulvihill, JAT Manager Drasko Reljin, NSW Federation president Karl Rodny and secretary Aulden Brown — was a colorful and professionally staged affair.

One dancing group, from the Beryl Ellis Studio, really caught the eye.

These teenagers can dance and if any club wants to put on some pre-match entertainment, they could provide a show to remember.

The Yugal club will repeat its opening night program at 7pm on Sunday, during a special presentation in the telethon for the Disabled.

Well done, Yugal — let's hope they are on the way back to their former glory days.

Olympic's marathon problems GRECO-SCOTTISH WAR LOOMING

Rumblings just under the surface, reaching about 5 on the Richter scale, could lead to an eruption in the Olympic camp.

Most fans are bitterly disappointed that their much vaunted team, despite all the brave pre-season words, is yet again the PSL's punching bag.

Five defeats out of eight matches plus a record 17 goals conceded and 15th place on the table spread gloom among the fans.

Many of them fear the worst and share the broad public view that Olympic are heading for yet another relegation and possible disintegration.

Some of the players are becoming disenchanted with their team's affairs.

"We were twice as fit last season under Jim Adam, who was sacked," one player said this week.

He also said many players deeply resented Tommy Docherty's public linen washing.

"He wrote in one of his many columns that our defence had more holes than the St Andrews golf course."

"I guess that's pretty amusing and typical Dochertyism."

"But he would have been better off telling us why the defence is leaky rather than sharpening his wit in public."

Another player was also disappointed with Docherty's methods.

"We have a few Scottish lads in the team and they awaited the arrival of Docherty as if it was the second coming," he said.

"After all, it must be a great honor for them to work under such a famous Scottish coach."

"But their ardour was soon cooled."

"The Doc told us that no Scots could expect special favors from him as throughout his career it was Scots who usually let him down."

Added yet another player:

"We have four points out of eight matches — and a possible 16 points — and drifting towards the bottom faster than a diver in a lead suit."

"Any other coach in the Olympic club would have got the sack by now. It always happened in the past."

"But I guess the committee would be too embarrassed to fire The Doc, so we just plod on."

"Believe me, we want to do better and climb up from 15th place, but it will be very, very hard."



Tommy Docherty



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